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20P

# THE TIMES

No. 65,030

THURSDAY AUGUST 11 1994

'I tried to do what I could. I held him until he slipped into unconsciousness'

## Alps woman tells of death and survival

FROM EMMA WILKINS IN CHAMONIX

A WOMAN who was trapped in an ice cavern on Mont Blanc for two days and two nights told yesterday how she held her dying husband in her arms after they fell 200 feet through a thin layer of snow.

Pamela Caswell, 40, a science teacher from Plymouth, said that when she could no longer feel a pulse on her husband Stephen, her maternal instincts took over and her priority became her son, Simon, 16, who fell with them.

Son Simon yesterday: he has leg injuries



Stephen Caswell: received head injuries in the fall

Mrs Caswell, who is recovering in hospital in Chamonix, France, took off her husband's bivy, a plastic survival bag, and kagoul and used them to keep Simon warm until a rescue team found the group and winched them off the mountain on Tuesday.

Dr Caswell, 37, a lecturer in geology at Plymouth University, had serious head and leg injuries when the family, who were roped together, fell through a soft snow bridge into the bottom of a cavernous crevasse while descending the mountain on Sunday.

"I bandaged his head and just kept him warm and held him. I tried to keep talking to him and get him into a comfortable position," Mrs Caswell said.

"I suppose we stayed like that most of Sunday evening. Gradually, his speech was getting more and more slurred. I think I knew as soon as we went down, when I saw his injuries, that I didn't think he would survive. I thought that we stood a good chance if

ly I couldn't find any pulse and then I realised he was dead.

"I just went cold and numb. It then became a matter of making sure my son survived. I took off the bivy bag and his kagoul to use as warm clothing for my son, who had hurt his knee, because it was no longer any use for my husband.

"It sounds awfully cold and callous, but all I could do was be as rational as I could. It was what had to be done."

Mrs Caswell, who is to fly home soon with Simon, her son from a previous marriage, said: "I can't afford to let myself go. I've just held on until now. It's only when I get home and back to my family that things will start to jog my memory and I think I'll sort of crack. It already seems a lifetime away now."

The trio, who had been camping in Italy, set out to climb Mont Blanc on Friday, intending to spend one night in a hut below the peak.

Their climb was slowed by loose rocks and they were forced to sleep out in bivy bags on Friday. After reaching the hut on Saturday, they decided to attempt a descent down a glacier on the French side on Sunday.

"I didn't like the look of the glacier because it was late in the day and the snow gets very soft," Mrs Caswell said. "The only other way was to go down a rocky ridge but we had been over so much loose rock over the last few days, that my husband was dubious."

They set off in the usual



Pamela Caswell in hospital: she removed her dead husband's sleeping bag and kagoul to keep her son warm

formation, with Mrs Caswell at the front because she was the lightest, followed by her son, 15 feet behind, and Dr Caswell, who had 15 years' climbing experience and was a member of the Alpine Club, at the rear.

"We went over several crevasses until we came to one that looked like any other," said Mrs Caswell, who had been married to her husband for just over a year. Dr

Caswell and Simon stuck their ice axes into the snow as Mrs Caswell took the first step backwards into a crevasse, which she estimated was about five feet deep.

"Because I was going backwards and stepping down, it was difficult to see what was coming until I started to go over the edge. I could then see over a long way to the side: there were obviously ice cliffs, so I realised it may have been

quite a big crevasse. Then I felt my feet start to slip. I plunged my axe in as much as possible, but the bridge was too soft and I went through. I must have dropped about 15 feet and as I was hanging I could see that I was in a vast cavern. It had been covered with a small snow bridge, but it was a massive great cavern."

"I hung for a few seconds, but Simon couldn't hold me. He jerked down and the

weight of the two of us was too much for my husband and it pulled him down. I went down on to the bottom, then Simon hit the ground and then I heard a thud.

"When I first fell I thought I had broken my back, because I just couldn't move. I felt this massive weight on me. I was half upside down and I'd fallen on my rucksack. It took a few moments to register

Continued on page 2, col 6

## A-level students face new 'clearing' chaos

BY BEN PRESTON  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of A-level students face chaos, disappointment and uncertainty next week when unprecedented numbers will be thrown into a last-minute "lottery" for university places.

Universities and colleges predict that record numbers of qualified young people risk missing a place at their first or second-choice institution. Instead, they will be forced to compete in a crowded clearing system that tries to allocate spare places to those who narrowly miss the target grades demanded by their chosen institution.

Vice-chancellors said yesterday that some universities were already preparing for an influx of disappointed students in October. They were expanding teams of advisers and counsellors to help potential dropouts who, after gaining a place through clearing, found themselves unexpectedly at a university they had never visited, studying a course they had not previously considered.

One official predicted a "bumfist", but urged the thousands of candidates seeking places not to lose their nerve during clearing, which lasts for five weeks from August 25.

The expected difficulties come after two important changes to university admissions. The Government has threatened tough financial penalties for universities that overshoot their student recruitment targets in an attempt to halt the sharp expansion of recent years. That has coincided with a new admissions procedure, combining the traditional universities with the former polytechnics, which has increased the volume of applications by 12 per cent.

The overall number of candidates and university places

Continued on page 2, col 6

## Benneton blamed for fire at race

The governing body of Formula One motor racing last night accused the Benneton team of causing the pit-blanc fire in the car of Jos Verstappen, its Dutch driver, the German Grand Prix ten days ago, by tampering with its own refuelling equipment.

The International Motor Sport Federation said the team had removed a filter, allowing a foreign body to retard a valve closure, prompting petrol to spray over Verstappen and five mechanics. Removing the filter would allow petrol to be pumped into the car at a rate 12 per cent quicker than if it were attached.

Oliver Holt, page 40

## Nasreen flees to Swedish exile

FROM NICHOLAS GEORGE IN STOCKHOLM

TASLIMA Nasreen, the Bangladeshi author facing death threats from Muslim fundamentalists, was smuggled to safety in Sweden, yesterday and went straight into hiding. Her flight was shielded in secrecy, with Swedish officials refusing even to confirm that she was in the country until she had been here for several hours.

Mrs Nasreen said in a statement that she had accepted a long-standing invitation from the Swedish PEN Club, and had come "to rest and work". She entered the country on a tourist visa; it has not yet been decided how long she will stay.

Mrs Nasreen has been in hiding in Bangladesh for two months after death threats from Muslim fundamentalists infuriated by a newspaper article that quoted her as seeking a "revision" of the

Koran. She says she had been misquoted, but admitted calling for changes in Islamic laws limiting the role of women.

The author was met at Arlanda airport, north of Stockholm, by Margaretha Uggelas, the Swedish Foreign Minister, and Gabi Gleichman, chairman of Swedish PEN. She had flown from Dhaka to Stockholm via Bangkok, and is now under police protection.

Mrs Uggelas denied that Mrs Nasreen had been hiding in the Swedish Embassy in Dhaka. "Sweden had, with other countries, expressed concern for her safety to the Bangladeshi government," she said. "There is a long-standing invitation from the Swedish PEN Club, and I think she wanted to accept that invitation. The Swedish government, like many other

governments, has been engaged in her fate.

"We have had a dialogue with the Bangladeshi government, and then the legal process finally arrived at a situation when she was free on bail and she was able to travel just like any other person."

She said Mrs Nasreen was tired and wanted a rest. "I welcomed her to Sweden, and hoped that she would have a good rest now."

Mrs Uggelas said Ms Nasreen had not requested asylum. "The question has not been brought up at all. Any such request would be dealt with the immigration board."

Mrs Nasreen's statement was issued through Mr Gleichman, who has been running a campaign in Scandinavia in her support.

Bangladeshi government officials in Dhaka expressed relief that Ms Nasreen had



Nasreen: intending to rest and work in hiding

gone, but militants threatened violent protests if she tried to return.

Ingvald Havnen, a spokesman for the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, said that he was expecting Ms Nasreen to visit a writers' seminar in Stavanger next month.

Leaders at risk, page 11

## Holiday boy's carer held

Paul McGiloway, 26, a social worker who accompanied a teenage criminal to Center Parcs holiday village in Elveden, Suffolk, where the boy burgled nine premises, was arrested in March in connection with the theft of a van at the time of the £3,000-a-week "rehabilitation" trip.

He was bailed to appear at Ilford police station, Essex, after being detained at a house hired for the boy's counselling. Pages 6, 14

## 270 more jobs go at Swan Hunter

Prospects for the Swan Hunter shipyard looked bleak last night when it emerged that 100 design staff — the key to a possible sale to the French — among 270 redundancies announced by the receivers yesterday could lose their jobs by the end of the month. Page 21

## Khmer Rouge's British hostage begs for help

FROM MARK DODD IN KAMPOT, SOUTHERN CAMBODIA

A BRITISH tourist held hostage with two others by Khmer Rouge guerrillas has made an impassioned plea for help as the Cambodian army encircles their camp, raising fears that negotiations could be jeopardised.

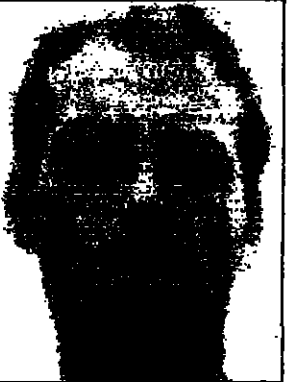
"Please, please, please get us out of here and back to our families and respective countries," Mark Slater, 28, said in a message scrawled on an invoice for food and medicine, the three received at the weekend.

Mr Slater, 28, Jean-Michel Braguet, 28, of France, and David Wilson, 29, an Australian, were taken hostage after their Kampot-bound train was ambushed on July 26.

Thirteen people were killed in the attack and 16 are captive, including the three Westerners and three Vietnamese.

Some local army units have advanced to within 500 yards of Khmer Rouge positions near Vine Mountain, about 90 miles south of Phnom Penh, a senior army officer said on Tuesday. Colonel Som Sokha said: "We have a plan to surround the place where they have the hostages, and then we will ask for them to be released. If they don't release the foreigners, we will attack."

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the Cambodian Prime Minister, ruled out a military attack, however. "Neither the armed forces nor the police



Slater: "Please, please, please get us out"

will take any military or forced action to threaten the lives of those hostages," he said yesterday. "I have to be very clear on this." Western

diplomats involved in efforts to free the three hostages fear an attack would endanger the captives.

In his message, dated August 7, Mr Slater asked negotiators not to send more food or medicine, saying that it was creating tension within the commune. "We received the goods. Thank you from us all. Please don't send us any more. It complicates things for us here," he wrote. His message was given to a government go-between and shown to journalists by military officers in Kampot province.

"We are not ungrateful, but it increases the tension having Western products around. All we request is our freedom," Mr Slater said. He asked that

their families be allowed to pay a ransom if the three Western governments involved refuse to make a monetary settlement. "Please do the moral thing and give our families the opportunity to arrange our release," he said.

Diplomatic sources said at least two of the families were prepared to pay to free their sons.

Melissa Himes, an American aid worker taken hostage in March and released 41 days later, said the three should respect their captors and acknowledge their authority. "Be very respectful and act politely," she said. "Never get angry — just show the Khmer Rouge they are the authority." (Reuter)

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**By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT**

Given the important role that the new authority will have in the criminal justice

gested an end to the Home Office role in investigating miscarriages of justice, replacing it with an independent

The decision not to include a further Criminal Justice Bill as one of the key ten measures for the Queen's Speech in November reflects the belief that the criminal justice system has undergone four years of rapid change and that it is now time for a period of consolidation.

**Jerry Stark, from Calif.**  
**Croquet Championship**  
**countries are competin**



## Eurostar's trial run

A banker's wife who was shot twice in the head as she sunbathed died by her own hand, an inquest at Chelmsford, Essex, was told yesterday. Hazel Clough, 48, was killed by a single shot to the head after the first bullet glanced off her cheek. Detective Superintendent John Soames told the inquest he was satisfied there were no suspicious circumstances. Mrs Clough, whose husband Barry, 50, is an area director of the Trustee Savings Bank, was found dead, beside the pool at their £300,000 home at Woodham Walter, near Maldon, Essex, on July 31. The inquest was adjourned.

**BY NICHOLAS WOOD**  
**CHIEF POLITICAL**  
**CORRESPONDENT**



But yesterday, as memories of controversies over junketing MPs were revived at Westminster, the group was under siege from envious colleagues more used to tours of Russian tractor factories.

Commons officials said that the plan was for the MPs to fly to Los Angeles in economy class, but return in Club class, and added that the budget for the trip had been approved by the liaison committee, made up of the chairmen of select committees.

Dr John Blackburn, MP for Dudley West, a Tory member of the committee, said the cost of the latest trip would be "one of the most wonderful £23,000

"We shall be producing a full report on the industry, which will put forward ways of putting the British film industry back on top. I view with dismay and abhorrence the fact that this trip is being criticised. It has been sanctioned by the Commons and its expenditure approved."

□ **Listing service:** *The Times* will carry a full listing service of university course vacancies from Thursday, August 25.

Three ministers are set to lose their constituencies in north London under boundary changes announced yesterday. Sir George Young, right, Sir John Wheeler and James Arbuthnot find their political careers threatened by the latest batch of recommendations from the Boundary Commission, but senior Tories said that the party stood to make a net gain of ten seats across the country in the shake-up.

A nine-year-old girl was critically ill last night after she was hit by a car driven by a police driving instructor. Kerry Tonks from Cradley Heath, West Midlands, was taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley after she was struck by an unmarked car. The instructor was not hurt. Kerry was later transferred to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The pair survived through Sunday night and Monday, when flurries of fresh snow fell and the small patch of sky became clearer.

Mrs Caswell's first words to the party of Italian climbers were: "Mon mari est mort". She said: "I needed them to realise it was serious and that we needed a helicopter. I can't speak Italian, so I tried French."

Mrs Caswell, who remained calm and controlled throughout the interview, said she had survived by switching off mentally. "I knew that I wasn't going to think of anything other than that we would see

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Many students, seeking a university place in October have been asked to achieve better examination results than for equivalent courses last year. The trend is a response to the Higher Education Funding Council's decision to claw back money from institutions that miss their recruitment targets by more than 1 per cent above or below.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, said: "Larger than usual numbers of candidates may not have their future sorted out until September."

Leading source *The Times* will carry a full listing service of university course vacancies from Thursday, August 25.

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# Alpine

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**Continued from page 1**

what had happened: my husband was the weight, he had fallen on top of me.

"He had a deep grass across this head and the skin was half off. His arm was broken. But the worst thing was his leg. It looked as if the bone had come up underneath the knee and pushed up through. I didn't cut his tracksuit bottoms because I was very conscious of the warmth and then I got a splint on the leg from our first-aid kit."

The cavern, which was about 10 feet wide and 30 feet long, with a small hole about four foot wide on the surface, was near the main path and Mrs Caswell hoped other climbers would hear their whistles or see their torches.

After Dr Caswell's death, the pair found they could not reach their stove because the matches were wet. "I didn't feel like eating, but Simon had a tin of tuna. We both ate mouthfuls of snow." Their hot ration of dried pasta were useless but they nibbled chocolate and flapjacks which Mrs Caswell had baked for the trip.

"We just sat it out, making ourselves as comfortable as possible. The worst thing was that it was very wet. There were lots of drips from the ice melting so I felt it was constantly raining," she said.

The pair survived through Sunday night and Monday, when furies of fresh snow fell and the small patch of sky became clearer.

Friday: family abandon attempt to scale Aiguille du Bionnassay spending Saturday in Refuge Durrer

Aiguille du Bionnassay

Refuge Durrer

Glacier de Miegie

Refuge Gonalve

Mont Blanc

SWITZERLAND

FRANCE

Mt Blanc massif

FRANCE

ITALY

Sunday morning, misery attempt to return to Courmayeur via Refuge Gonalve, falling 200ft through crevasses into crevasse south by 100ft.

Courmayeur

One mile

over us. We were cold by then but only a couple of degrees below normal. I knew our best chance was to attract attention in the early morning, when climbers set out between 2 am because the snow is hard."

The pair whistled and flashed their torches, giving off flashes a minute - the recognised mountain distress signal.

"We started flashing again at 2 am on Tuesday. Suddenly I saw another light up at the top. We shouted and flashed as much as we could. We heard voices and someone came over."

Mrs Caswell's first words to the party of Italian climbers were: *"Mon mari est mort"*, she said. "I needed them to realise it was serious and that we needed a helicopter. I can't speak Italian, so I tried French."

pair and the body off the mountain, where more than 7,200 people have died since it was first conquered on August 8, 1786.

"We all know the rules of climbing and I think we were just unlucky," Mrs Caswell said. "I think it was just tiredness, we had already had two days on the mountain and we just got over what we thought were the dangerous bits but glaciers and crevasses are something you should never underestimate."

"Perhaps we relaxed too much - I don't know. One can always ask oneself why did it happen? What did we do wrong?"

Mrs Caswell, who remained calm and controlled throughout the interview, said she had survived by switching off mentally. "I know that I wasn't going to think about anything else, to think about it all

[illegible]



# Priest's pregnant lover 'offered cash to quit job'

By ROSE DUTTA

A TEACHER of religious education who became pregnant by a Roman Catholic priest was offered "lumps of money" to leave her job by the Roman Catholic Church and the school she worked at, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

In contrast, the father of her child, Chris O'Neill, 40, was spirited away from the area to safe houses outside London, Birmingham and in Ireland and was told that in time he would be able to resume pastoral duties.

Monika Kocanek, 29, told an industrial tribunal in Bedford that she was offered neither counselling nor consultations by the governors of St Thomas More RC upper school in Bedford. However, Mr O'Neill was offered counselling by his religious order but was forbidden to contact Miss Kocanek for several months. After the birth of their daughter, however, the two were reunited and are now married.

Miss Kocanek claims that she was unfairly dismissed from her job in August 1992 and suffered sexual discrimination because the school governors were unhappy that she was a single parent.

Miss Kocanek met Fr O'Neill, who was assistant priest at the Church of Holy Cross in Bedford, when he made weekly visits to the school as part of his duty. They started to have an affair and despite taking the Pill, Ms Kocanek discovered she was pregnant in October 1991. Fr O'Neill told his superiors and was summoned to see the Rt Rev Leo McCarrick, the Bishop of Northampton.

Fr O'Neill told the tribunal that his superiors said he had



Chris O'Neill and Monika Kocanek with their child

to leave the parish by the weekend and that arrangements would be made for Miss Kocanek. "In these situations, the woman is protected, shielded and given money. The aim is to prevent the pregnancy from being known," Fr O'Neill said. "Monika was going to be given an offer she could not refuse."

Miss Kocanek said she told the tribunal that one of Fr O'Neill's superiors, had initially asked her to leave Bedford and stay with friends. He offered to set up a trust fund for the baby. She said she believed he was acting on his own but was in contact with the bishop.

"I refused the offer because they didn't have any right to interfere. They were taking away the responsibilities Chris would have had," Miss Kocanek, who married the priest last October, said.

When she discovered she was pregnant Miss Kocanek

took sick leave because of nervous exhaustion. In December she wrote to John McManus, the school's head, asking to be transferred to another school to avoid any problems. She was told to write to the county inspector. In December, Mr McManus asked Miss Kocanek to resign because her illness made it impossible to plan the school timetable. The next month she was told she would not be able to transfer schools. She took maternity leave in the spring after attending a medical examination.

Miss Kocanek said that one week before she was due to give birth in May 1992, she was offered another financial inducement to leave the school, this time by Fr Stan Condon, the chairman of the school's governors. "He was adamant that there was no way I could go back to the school. I could leave voluntarily or I would be dismissed. I had no future at that or any other school," Miss Kocanek

who is five months pregnant with the couple's third child, said. "He said that if I tendered my resignation there would be no reason for further action. He said maybe I could go back for one term if I got a sick note from my doctor for three months."

Miss Kocanek said that Fr Condon offered to see if she could keep her maternity pay, get back pay and severance pay and offered a "cash sum on top". She said that she wanted time to think over the offer. Asked by her barrister Nick Kydies how much money she had been offered, Miss Kocanek replied: "He didn't specify, he just said 'lumps of money'."

Fr Condon wrote to Miss Kocanek's solicitors the next month and said her position was unacceptable in a Catholic school because she was pregnant and unmarried, Miss Kocanek said. Her pay was stopped in August when she failed to turn up to a second medical examination.

Miss Kocanek denied under cross-examination that she was unfit to teach religious education and personal relationships at a Catholic school because she was pregnant by a priest. "I was doing a professional job of work teaching RE. If I was teaching English I would not have to hero-worship Shakespeare," she said.

The tribunal was told that two other unmarried female teachers were pregnant and that male teachers lived with female partners outside marriage. Miss Kocanek claimed that she was being unfairly singled out as none of these had been disciplined. She also denied receiving money for her story from newspapers; however, under cross examination she admitted to getting some money.



Samantha Phillips behaved "irresponsibly"

## 'Bimbo' broker wins £18,000 but acted foolishly

By BILL FROST

A CITY broker who claimed she was sacked after rejecting a senior colleague's advances during a business trip was yesterday awarded £18,000 after winning her case for unfair dismissal and sexual discrimination.

The award is only 75 per cent of the full damages to which Samantha Phillips, 28, was entitled because the industrial tribunal ruled she had acted "unwisely, foolishly and irresponsibly".

However, David Milton, the tribunal chairman, said that the aviation broker's employers, the Willis Corroon insurance group, would not have acted in such a "steamroller" fashion, "catapulting" her out of the door if Miss Phillips had been a man. He awarded her £13,500 plus £4,500 for injury to her feelings.

After hearing conflicting reports of events in Copenhagen, when Giles Wilkinson, a senior member of staff with the group, was alleged to have fondled Miss Phillips' breast, Mr Milton said: "I do not find that Mr Wilkinson acted in any way improperly and in particular by a physical gesture which could be considered as improper."

Miss Phillips had claimed that after a late-night drink in their Copenhagen hotel during January 1992, Mr Wilkinson, 35, "hunched" on to her and tried to fondle her. After she rejected him, sexual comments and innuendoes towards her turned sour and during a meeting with other brokers Mr Wilkinson allegedly told her: "Back down bimbo."

She was sacked from her £17,000-a-year job for gross misconduct in November 1992 after she allegedly lied to a Lloyd's underwriter about whether any other dealers had been approached to put up terms for a contract.

Miss Phillips, of Battersea, southwest London, told the tribunal she did not know she was misleading the underwriter. She claimed she was the victim of a conspiracy to get rid of her after she rejected Mr Wilkinson's advances.

Stephen Simblett, summing up on behalf of Miss Phillips, told the tribunal in Croydon, south London, there had been a strategy to oust his client

from the firm. He said she was "in a sense sacrificed" to maintain a good relationship with the underwriter. She had a clean disciplinary record and was known for her high ambition and drive, the tribunal heard.

Philip Parish, for Willis Corroon, said the allegations made by Miss Phillips about Mr Wilkinson were "terribly easy to make and terribly difficult to refute". He said: "There was a lot of evidence that the reason she was sacked was to do with her attitude and timekeeping."

After yesterday's hearing Miss Phillips said: "I am delighted. It is a vindication of what I have been saying all along. I am very satisfied with



Wilkinson: "did not act in any way improperly"

the decision the tribunal has come to today. It is what I hoped for."

The ruling was also welcomed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which said it would put other employers on notice. "We are pleased that they have identified the fact that she wouldn't have been treated like that if she was a man," said a spokeswoman. "It shows how in male-dominated areas women are treated differently. It is showing employers that you can't treat women like this."

Willis Corroon, in a statement issued last night, stood by the decision to sack Miss Phillips. "We are of course pleased with the dismissal of the action against Mr Wilkinson on the grounds of sexual harassment."

## Drink-drive Sikh leader jailed

A SIKH temple leader whose religious laws forbid alcohol was yesterday jailed for six months for a second drink-driving offence. Manjit Singh Rattan, general secretary of the Moss Side Gurdwara, admitted drink-driving while under a three-year ban.

Manchester city magistrates were told that he drove his Rover after drinking beer and rum to celebrate the news that he was to become a grandfather. Rattan, 41, was almost three times over the limit when arrested.

He was spotted by the crew of a patrol car, Brian Crebbin, for the prosecution, told the court. His car was veering across the road and almost collided with parked cars.

After repeated attempts to stop him Rattan was eventually forced to halt when a second police car intercepted him at traffic lights.

Rattan admitted drink-driving, dangerous driving, driving without insurance and driving while disqualified. He was also banned from driving for a further five years, after which he must retake his test.

The guide to the Sikh way of life, the Rehat Maryada, states: "Sikhs should not partake of alcohol, tobacco, drugs or other intoxicants." Drinkers are also barred from election to religious positions.

## Dylan and Caitlin reunited at the dying of the light

By JOE JOSEPH

"DYLAN was a star in his own right," said the man who, for a decade, was his light. He was too ill to fly over for the funeral.

Caitlin, who died in Catania, Sicily, on July 21 at the age of 80, surprised many by her death-bed wish to be buried beside her former husband, especially those who knew the couple more for their notorious rows than for their equally famed mutual infatuation.

Francesco Fazio, the son Caitlin had at the age of 49 with Giuseppe, stood among the mourners in Brown's hotel, where his mother had famously caroused with Dylan and others.

"It's the only correct decision," he said. "I think that when one loves a person, like Caitlin did Dylan, the negative side slips away and you only remember the positive side. She told me, 'The reading aloud in bed, reading out his poetry, that's something marvellous Dylan gave me. I'll never forget that,' he said.

Dylan and Caitlin's daughter, Aerwyn, had been one of those slightly jolted by her mother's return. "I didn't know that's what she planned. It was mooted a few years ago. But then no-one mentioned it again." Her

brothers, Colin and Llewelyn, also attended yesterday. Greeting mourners by the entrance to the steeply banked graveyard, Colin — one hand around a cigarette, the other helping to support Caitlin's frail sister, Brigit — said: "I'm very touched that the whole village has turned out. It was a very nice service."

Inside Brown's, where sundry photographs of Dylan and Caitlin hang on the wall alongside snaps of triumphant Laughtarne's first 15, Tommy Watts was handing out sausage rolls and sandwiches to Caitlin's relatives and friends and fancy officials from Carmarthen and the mayor of Swansea, while locals told how Tommy had sold the pub's dart board 17 times to tourists, each time promising it was the one at which Dylan had played.

"Caitlin once told me that all the characters in *Under Milk Wood* came from the drinkers in the bar of Brown's Hotel," said Tommy, who helped carry Caitlin's coffin.

"He'd scribbled them down on the back of cigarette packets. At first people resented him because they recognised this person and that."

Photograph, page 20

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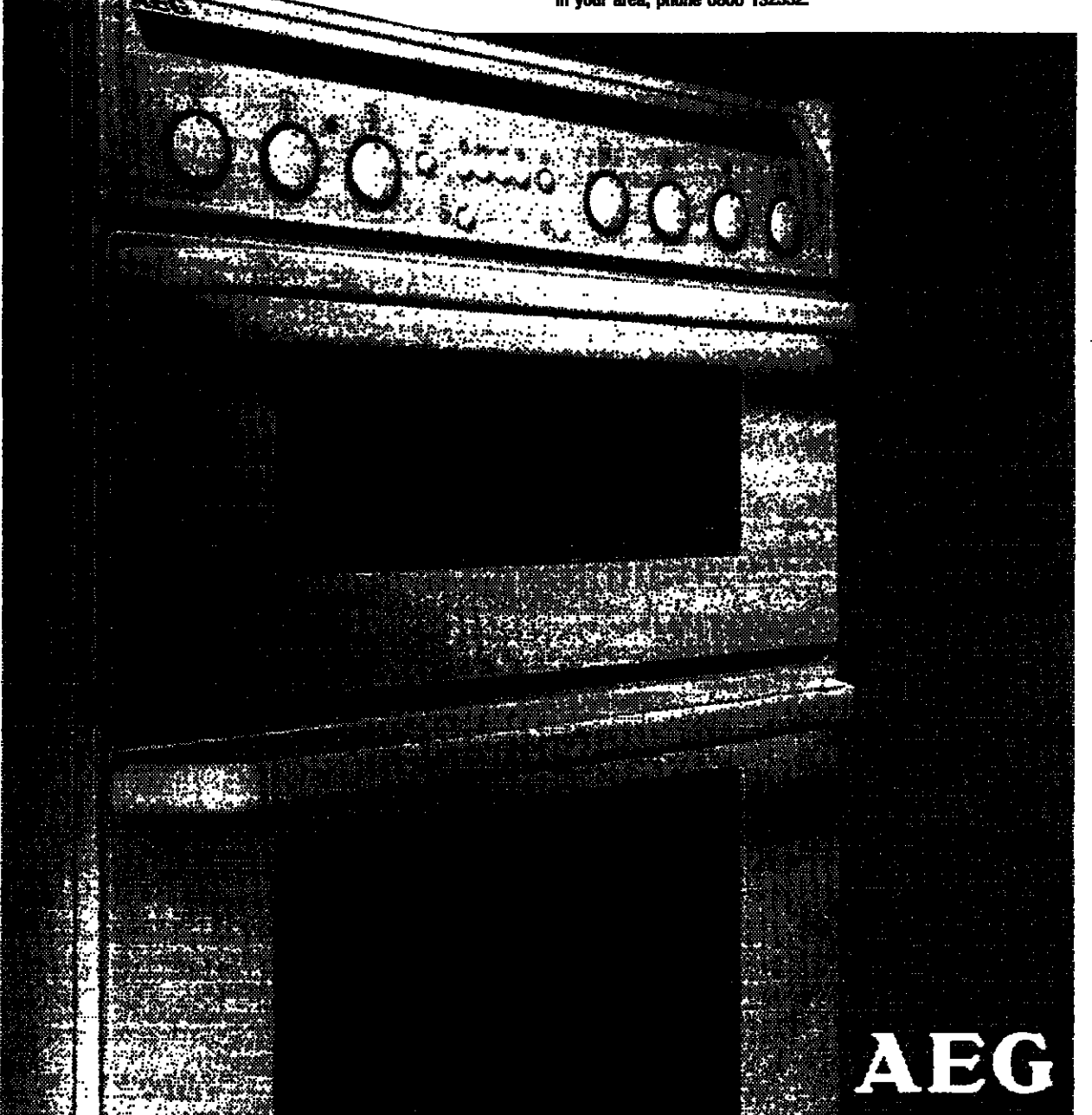
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IN THE

## MAGAZINE

## Wife's killer left tape for mother

By RICHARD DUCE

A POLICEMAN left his mother a chilling tape-recorded confession that detailed how he murdered his young wife before taking his own life.

Family and friends of PC Tony Gibbons, 31, and his wife Nikki, 21, wept during their inquest yesterday as a transcript of his final words was read to the court.

PC Gibbons, who believed that the wife he first met when she was 16 had been unfaithful, said on the tape: "Dear mum, please try and think of me. I know what I have done is the most brutal act any human being can do to another... I don't know how I did it, my heart was broken."

"I went around to Nikki's side of the bed and she turned around and looked at me. I can still see her face in front of me. I told her to turn over and she did and then I jumped on her and held my hand over her mouth and I could see all the life going out of her. I wanted to stop, I didn't want to hurt my baby."

Detective Sergeant Robin Hind, who read the transcript to Rodney Corner, the North

Buckinghamshire coroner, said the tape was found when police went to the couple's home in Milton Keynes on June 8. Mr Corner recorded that Mrs Gibbons was unlawfully killed and that her husband had committed suicide.

The tape was made on June 4 and 5 and indicated that PC Gibbons threatened his wife at the end of May and then killed himself on June 6. PC Gibbons was found slumped inside a fume-filled Talbot Samba he had bought after other suicide attempts had failed. His wife was found buried in the garden.

PC Gibbons said on the tape that he believed his wife had been having an affair with a businessman. "I would have to go with her and then we would be together always and we would have all eternity."

Mr Corner blamed the couple's troubles on "the obsessive, possessive jealous nature of Tony Gibbons. He was psychiatrically, desperately disturbed and a danger to his wife. I have no doubt he was full of remorse."



# Ministry accused as second trawler returns to port

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN NEWLYN AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

A FRESH dispute over tuna fishing erupted last night as Cornish fishermen accused government inspectors of acting unreasonably in leaving the skipper of a second British trawler no choice but to return to port from the Bay of Biscay. They had accused him of using nets that were too long.

Jeremy Hosking, skipper of the Newlyn-based *Alice Louise*, said he had been warned by a fisheries ministry inspector last Sunday that he could face "further action" if he continued fishing, even though it was not clear that he had broken the law.

The dispute has exacerbated the ill-feeling aroused by the treatment of *Charisma*, which was forced to return to Devonport naval base in Plymouth last weekend to have its nets examined after similar allegations.

Mike Townsend, chief executive of the Cornish Fish Producers Organisation in Newlyn, said *Alice Louise*'s nets had been inspected by ministry inspectors before she sailed last week and had been judged to be legal. At sea the boat had then been checked again by HMS *Alderney*, one of the Navy's fishery protection vessels. Navy personnel made a visual estimate of the net in the water and judged it to be too long.

A ministry inspector went aboard and measured the net's length as it was hauled in. He estimated the net was "just over" the maximum 2.5km allowed. However, a European Commission inspector on *Alderney* calculated the length at just under 2.5km, based on its bulk once aboard.

"The legality of the nets was obviously in question," Mr Townsend said. "The skipper

could not rely on anyone establishing the legality of his nets. In view of this and the general atmosphere, he decided he had no option but to return home."

Mr Hosking said: "I am convinced there was nothing wrong with our nets. I am a young man in the fishing industry trying to make a living and it has got to the stage where I do not know whether I want to carry on."

The Agriculture Ministry

confirmed last night that *Alice Louise*'s nets had been checked before it set sail but that had involved only an assessment of the "volumetric bulk" of the nets stowed on board, which was only a rough guide.

"It is simply not practical to lay 2.5km of nets out on the quayside to measure them every time a boat goes to sea," a spokesman said. "Once the nets are in the water, it is possible to get a more accurate

idea of their length. The fishermen are sensible adults and know the rules and it is up to them to make sure they comply."

The ministry said the nets had not been checked again when the trawler reached shore because the inspector was satisfied from the measurements at sea that they had breached the rules. The skipper had been warned but no further action would be taken.

Paul Tyler, Liberal Democrat MP for North Cornwall, said that if *Alice Louise*, which was last night preparing to sail, had committed an offence, it was odd that no charges were being brought. He said there were many questions that had not been answered by the Government, such as why the Navy had been so quick to order *Charisma* and *Alice Louise* back to port and much slower to protect the Cornish boats against Spanish attacks.

"We are very angry in Cornwall. It really does seem as if the Navy are under instruction to watch our fishing fleet like hawks and yet turn a blind eye to what the Spanish were up to last week."

The fishermen denied reports that they were arming themselves against Spanish attacks. "I have never even heard the word guns mentioned," Mr Townsend said. "It is a stupid allegation."

Command of the Royal Navy gunboats in the fisheries protection fleet is shared between the ministries of defence and agriculture and fisheries. This reflects the fleet's dual role of ensuring that British trawlers obey European Union regulations and protecting them against interference by foreign vessels.

## Billingsgate turns up nose at tuna

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE arguments between the Spanish and Cornish tuna fleets in the Bay of Biscay cut little ice at the Billingsgate fish market yesterday morning.

John Shelton, director of J. Bennett, the biggest tuna trader in the market on the Isle of Dogs, east London, said: "We would not touch the kind of thing they are fishing for out there. We do not like the nets they use and the fish is very much at the bottom of the tuna range."

To the average punter tuna is tuna. But to connoisseurs there is a world of difference between albacore or white tuna, the variety which Cornish and Spanish fishermen are squabbling over in the Bay of Biscay, and the much bigger blue fin, yellow fin and big-eye tuna which merchants such as Mr Shelton deal in.

"Albacore are pale-fleshed and swim in huge shoals, which makes them easy prey

for the drift nets used by the Cornish boats. Because albacore tuna are caught in such volume they are relatively cheap and are mostly consumed by the canning industry," he said.

One of the ironies of the current conflict is that most of the tuna caught by the Cornish boats is exported to the Continent and much of it probably ends up in cans on the shelves of Spanish supermarkets. Not a single albacore tuna was to be found at Billingsgate yesterday.

J. Bennett will buy only tuna that has been caught by traditional pole-and-line methods, in which baited hooks are trailed on each side of the boat. A few score fish are caught in this way where, as a drift net ensnares thousands, along with dolphins, turtles and other marine creatures.

"Blue fin tuna is reckoned the best," Mr Shelton said.

## Thief tortures and kills war veteran



Clarence Cooper: he was stabbed 13 times

A SECOND World War veteran was tortured, stabbed 13 times in the neck and then suffocated by a killer who ransacked his home, Clarence Cooper, 84, was left to die on his bed after the attack.

As Mr Cooper lay dying the killer ransacked rooms and rifled cupboards for something to steal. The body of Mr Cooper, who served in the Staffordshire Regiment, was discovered by police at 4.45pm on Tuesday. They

were called to his home in the Palfrey area of Walsall, West Midlands, after a meal-on-wheels visitor failed to get a reply at the detached council house.

Officers discovered Mr Cooper's mutilated body in the living room where he slept. A post-mortem examination showed that he had been stabbed with a screwdriver or knife with a pointed blade, and had then been suffocated. They have traced a niece who

will formally identify the body but they are looking for more of his family.

Detective Superintendent John Plimmer, who is leading the murder hunt, said: "This was a dreadful incident in which an elderly man with few comforts in life was killed. This man was 5ft 2in and very, very frail. It was a horrific killing. He went through a period of torture before his death."

Det Supt Plimmer said the

pensioner had last been seen alive at 8.15am on Monday. "We strongly suspect that there was more than one person involved in the attack," he said.

Det Supt Plimmer said there were no definite links with the murders of any other pensioners. He said: "We do not wish to create panic among the elderly but we would remind everyone of the need to remain vigilant, locking doors and windows."

## Battlefield bear seeks new posting

BY JOHN SHAW

A SMALL honey-coloured teddy bear that survived the bloodbath of the Somme in an officer's jacket pocket will be sold in London next month. Edwin Bear, 5ft 11in tall, was a favourite companion of Second Lieutenant Percy Kynnersley-Baddeley, 22, whose family ran a printing firm in Sidcup, Kent.

The young subaltern was so attached to this reminder of home that he carried Edwin with him, even onto the battlefield. The bear was well-made but had only one original eye — the other was embroidered by the officer's mother.

The Somme offensive of July 1916 was one of the bloodiest of the First World War, with 419,654 British and Imperial casualties. On the second day Kynnersley-Baddeley was killed and the bear was returned to his widow Verna, a ballet dancer with the Adelphi Gaiety company in London. They had been married only six months.

With her husband's personal effects was a note saying the bear was found in his jacket pocket on the battlefield. She remarried after the war and had children. But the tiny mascot remained one of her dearest possessions, sitting on a shelf in her sitting room next to a childhood teddy of her own.

Her daughter, Joan Parsons, 77, who lives in Wimbledon, southwest London, said yesterday that when she was little she often longed to play with Edwin Bear. "I asked repeatedly but the reply was always the same. 'No, he is much too precious'. I thought he always looked rather sad, probably because of his lost eye."

Her mother died some years ago and Mrs Parsons is selling the treasure as she moves to somewhere smaller. Jane Williams, teddy bear specialist at the auctioneers Phillips, said: "I've never seen a bear quite like this. This is an unusual size and his features are very well made. He is something different and has such an unusual story that he should do very well."

The bear is expected to make about £200 at a sale in London on September 20.

## Daughter of tribal chief jailed for DSS fraud

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE daughter of a tribal chief and a lawyer was jailed for three and a half years yesterday for her part in the largest social security fraud of its kind in Britain.

Oluf Adabale, of Forest Hill, southeast London, took a leading role in a sophisticated operation which involved 2,000 false identities and cost the Department of Social Security a total of £1 million. The 22-year-old mother of three, whose late father was a Nigerian tribal chieftain, made bogus claims for £90,000 — the largest amount of any of the 11 gang members who have either admitted or been convicted of conspiracy to defraud the DSS.

Judge Fordham at the Inner London Crown Court told Adabale: "What I am dealing with here is systematic dishonesty on a large scale by a number of people who, including yourself, were well educated and leading a comfortable lifestyle in an utterly dishonest way."

The judge accepted her personal benefit was £23,000. He ordered the confiscation of £20,675 in savings and said another 18 months would be added to her sentence if the amount was not paid.

He said: "The methods were not particularly careful or subtle. I don't know much about the workings of the [DSS] systems but I assume there are safeguards. They do not appear to have been adequate or if they were adequate they don't appear to have been operated very effectively."

Charles Gratwicke, for the prosecution, said that as a direct result of the conspiracy the DSS has instituted new procedures.

Adabale and her brother, who was jailed at a previous hearing for 15 months for his part in the conspiracy, obtained details of students' identities and took details from the Death Register at St Katherine's House.



Richard Edmonds sifting for fossils unearthed in the landslip at Charmouth

## High hopes as the earth moves

TOURIST chiefs are being urged to exploit a spectacular landslide on England's south coast. The fossil-rich cliffs between Lyme Regis and Charmouth in Dorset are crumbling at an alarming rate. Experts have said there could soon be the biggest coastal landslide ever witnessed in Europe.

Professor Dennis Brunsdon, who has been recording landslides since 1964, said: "It is one of the great landfall features of Europe and should be promoted as a tourist attraction."

The cliffs above Black Ven started to rumble and slide again last weekend. By Tuesday a large overhang had dropped 100ft, spewing thousands of tonnes of material on to the beach. "It is a most spectacular sight, a large fan of sand and soil spreading across the beach," Richard Edmonds, the warden of Charmouth Heritage Centre, said. "It is possible to sit on the beach and hear the stones crunching together under the mud. We are expecting some heavy rain in the next few days, and this could start more significant movement."

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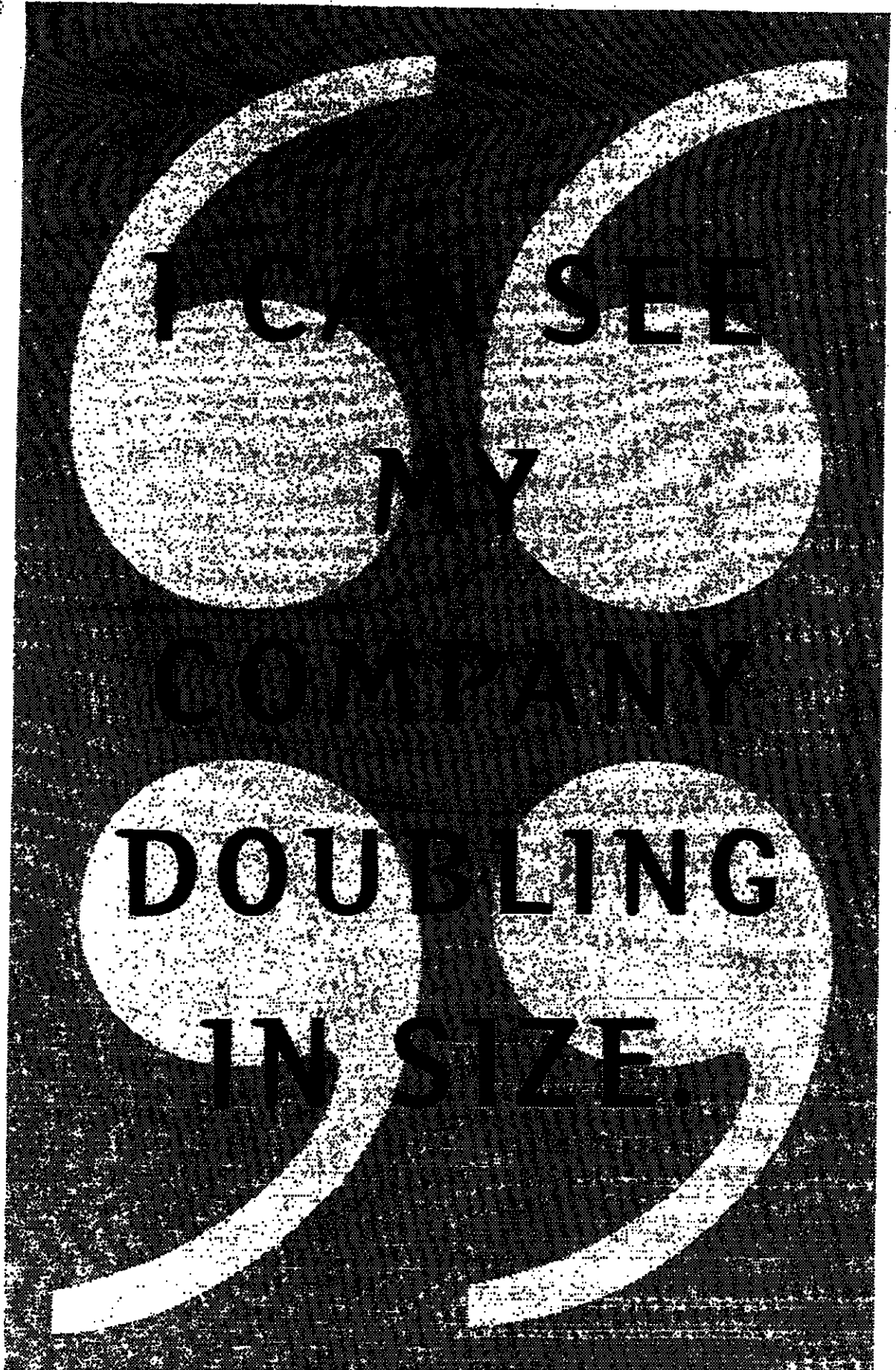
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## Chalet boy's carers rented luxury home as counselling venue

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE charity which took a 14-year-old tearaway to a Suffolk holiday village where he burgled nine chalets also booked a luxury four-bedroom converted barn at the same time in which to give him counselling.

It was also disclosed yesterday that a social worker who was one of the boy's minders at Center Parcs holiday complex in Elveden, Suffolk, was detained near the rented house at Great Ashfield in connection with a van theft in Ilford, Essex.

Paul McGiloway, 26, of Ilford, was bailed to appear at Ilford police station. It is not known whether he was an employee of the charity, Heartsease Trust. Last night a dispute erupted over the

disclosure that the trust had paid £807 for the house at the same time as it booked a £403 week-long visit to Center Parcs.

As the owners of the cottage and the company which manages it attacked the trust for failing to tell them a young offender was to stay in it, Essex County Council, which placed the boy in the trust's care at a cost of £3,000 a week, criticised its failure to offer a public explanation.

A spokesman for Blake's, the holiday company, said: "It is obviously wrong that anyone should book this and conceal from us the purpose for which the building was to be used." The converted barn is 15 miles from the holiday

village and its caretaker was told it had been rented as "back-up" in case the youth from Grays, Essex, misbehaved and had to be taken elsewhere. The house has four bedrooms, including a master suite with a 5ft double bed and en-suite bathroom, a television, video and hi-fi.

Gordon Howes, the owner, was not told at the time of the booking what it was to be used for. The booking was made through Lunn Poly's branch in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, in the name of the trust's chairman.

Mr Howes said: "I don't agree with the philosophy of sending him off to Center Parcs. To use my barn as a punishment is outrageous. Taking someone there who has committed these offences is appalling. He should have been in a young offenders' institution. The amount of money this cost could have been used in a far better way."

No damage was caused to the house while it was rented by the four-year-old charity, which specialises in rehabilitating young offenders. Yesterday nobody was answering the telephones at the trust's headquarters in Stevenage.

The boy arrived with two adults at Center Parcs on March 25, burgled nine chalets and took property worth £3,000 on March 26 and 27 before leaving on March 28. The youth, now aged 15, was placed in local authority secure accommodation in Humberstone at the end of July.

Pat Clark, a spokeswoman for Essex County Council, criticised the trust and said the council had been unable to contact its officials yesterday.

"They are the ones who are in the firing line and should say exactly what was going on."

A 14-year-old from York, known as "Blip Boy" because of the impact he has on local crime statistics when at liberty, has been placed in secure accommodation in Skipton, North Yorkshire. Police said he had single-handedly created a mini-crime wave which included 38 burglary and sneak-thief offences.

Janet Daley, page 14

## MP criticises sail trip for offenders

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A CONSERVATIVE MP yesterday criticised a decision to send young offenders on a week-long sailing trip off the British coast.

Dame Jill Knight, a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee, said: "The lesson these children will learn is that wrongdoing leads to a holiday."

Birmingham social services department is paying £3,500 to send ten children from the St John's children's home in Erdington, Birmingham, on the 100ft ketch *Queen Galadriel*, sailing from Southampton.

They will be accompanied by four social workers.

The teenagers will be chosen from 29 children, including young offenders, and will be picked according to their behaviour at the home.

"One of the essential elements of any justice system is that offenders are deterred from further crime," Dame Jill said. Most of the youngsters "have caused endless misery to others".

she said, and were getting a holiday beyond the wildest dreams of most children.

The 1937 vessel, a converted Baltic trader, is one of three offered by the Cirdan Sailing Trust, a charity that specialises in character-building activities at sea.

Nick Back, an executive officer, said: "We are not into holidays. It's quite possible if they were out sailing at the present moment in the Channel they would have force six gales. It is extremely uncomfortable."

The teenagers are treated as crew once on board. They have to provide food, scrub floors and hoist sails. The living area consists of a bare table surrounded by bunks.

The Rev Richard Bashford, vice-chairman of Birmingham social services, said: "This is a children's home, not a penal institution. These children have had a hard time and the last thing they need is critics like Dame Jill Knight putting them down."



■ Lady Helen Taylor and her husband Tim leaving hospital yesterday with their five-day-old baby Columbus. The family posed for photographs in the driveway outside the Portland Hospital in central London, where Lady Helen gave birth on Saturday evening — a month prematurely.

The new royal baby, who is twenty-third in line to the throne, was making his first public appearance. He rested quietly in his mother's arms before being driven away in the family's Land Rover. The car's luggage space was piled high with bouquets from well-wishers.

## Cancer drug blocks harmful enzymes

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH patients are testing a drug with the potential to kill tumours that have become resistant to chemotherapy.

The drug blocks two enzymes that are vital for cancer cells to survive and multiply, laboratory trials indicate. Dr Paul Bevan, of Xenova, a Slough company given the right to develop the drug commercially, said there were chemicals that attacked one enzyme but no chemical had been found before that blocked both.

The drug's action was "a double whammy" and a potentially vital breakthrough for patients with skin, bowel, lung or brain cancer who had run out of options.

The cells in some forms of cancer often become resistant to commercially available drugs. About 40,000 people

each year develop lung cancer and 39,000 of those will die.

Dr David Secker, director of drug development at the Cancer Research Campaign, said yesterday: "Drugs like this do not come along every day of the week."

Dr Bevan said studies on mice with lung cancer had found that four daily injections of the drug caused the tumours to stop growing.

He said resistance to existing drugs developed when cancer cells, which had biological pumps in their membranes, expelled anti-tumour drugs. Tests indicated that the new drug overcame the pumping action.

The drug, which is called DACA and has been given the brand name XRS000, was synthesised by the Auckland Cancer Society in New Zealand in the early 1980s.

Its potential was recognised by a team from the British charity. Two pilot trials in Cambridge and New Zealand involved 60 patients with a range of cancers. Bigger trials are planned in Britain and the United States. It is hoped to make the drug commercially available in 1999.

## Man held after girlfriend burnt in petrol blaze dies

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE boyfriend of a dental nurse who died after a petrol explosion destroyed their kitchen was being questioned by police yesterday.

Detectors arrested Alan Maden, 26, who was injured in the blast, within an hour of Joanne Whittaker's death in hospital early yesterday morning.

Miss Whittaker, 28, had suffered 80 per cent burns in the explosion the previous evening at the house they shared in Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

The couple's son Thomas, 4, was being looked after by relatives last night.

Neighbours said the dead woman had only recently returned home after an argument. Margaret Priestley, 49, who worked with Miss Whittaker, said: "They had a very on-off relationship. She had left him before."

Police at first said the explosion happened as a petrol generator was being refuelled. However, Supt Gary Haigh later declined to give details, saying that a man had been arrested and his inquiries were continuing.

He said: "Police managed to speak briefly to Joanne before she died, but we are not in a position to reveal the contents of the conversation. This has been a tragic incident for all concerned."

A murder incident room has been set up close to the scene. Karen Kuterewicz, who lives opposite the couple, said Mr Maden had recently brought home a petrol generator for use with power tools in his work as a builder.

The blast blew out all the ground-floor windows, shattering shards of glass on chow-

ren-standing by an ice-cream van ten yards away. Miss Whittaker's son was among them, but escaped unhurt. Two others, aged ten and four, were out, but not seriously hurt.

June Hargreaves, 67, a neighbour, said: "There was a massive bang. Everyone rushed out into the street and suddenly Joanne appeared completely aflame. Those people queuing at the ice-cream van grabbed her and tried to wrap her in their own coats. Others rushed to their houses and came out with buckets of water to try to douse her."

She added: "Miss Whittaker might have been unconscious by that time. Three people who helped beat out the flames needed hospital treatment for minor burns and shock."

Miss Whittaker and Mr Maden were taken to Burnley hospital in Lancashire. She was later transferred to a specialist burns unit in Preston but died less than three hours after the incident. Mr Maden is not seriously injured.

Joanne Whittaker had 80 per cent burns

## Oxford disrupted by firebombers

ANIMAL rights activists disrupted the centre of Oxford yesterday when two incendiary devices they planted in city centre stores went off. Three others failed to ignite.

Detectors confirmed that the attacks on stores selling leather and woollen goods had the hallmarks of animal rights activists. They came after three similar attacks in Cambridge recently where the Animal Rights Militia attacked a leather shop, Roots the Chemist and a woollens shop. The first floor of Boots was severely damaged by a device believed to be the size of an audio cassette.

A spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front said yesterday: "The Animal Rights Militia claimed responsibility for the Cambridge attacks and said it was the beginning of a campaign in towns and cities across England against all forms of animal abuse. This could be the second wave of a new

campaign." Police were alerted early yesterday when a blast was heard at C.H. Brown and Son, a leather shop in Oxford's covered market.

The explosion started a fire in the ground floor of the shop and caused heavy smoke in nearby streets. The workshop was flooded, causing thousands of pounds of damage, after a sprinkler system was activated. Two more devices were later discovered, at a furrier and a leather shop.

Shortly before 8am another device was found at West World and two hours later staff at the Edinburgh Wool Shop raised the alarm after a fire broke out. At one stage a large area of the city centre was sealed off but was reopened during the rush hour.

Chief Inspector Laurie Fray, of Thames Valley Police, said: "All the indications are that some animal rights activist group are behind this. We do not know who because no-one has claimed responsibility."

## Postman scoops £2m on red-letter day

A POSTMAN collected a £2 million jackpot yesterday after doing the pools on and off for 20 years.

David Caldwell scooped £2,267,636 and 45p only two days before his 47th birthday. He is the third pools double-millionaire in four weeks.

His eldest son's birthday, March 13, was one of the numbers Mr Caldwell picked when he staked £1.80 on three Littlewoods eight-from-ten perma. Stephen Caldwell, 24, who is backpacking in Malaysia, is unaware of the windfall — and that he no longer need worry about an outstanding £2,000 student loan.

Mr Caldwell, who lives with his wife Joan, 45, and youngest son Ryan, 19, in Cheam, Surrey, has his eyes on a £100,000 car. "I've always fancied a Bentley Turbo so the E-reg Peugeot and V-reg Mini may have to go."

The sorting office shift worker earns £20,000 by working six nights a week and doing lots of overtime. "I'm not quitting yet but I can't say how much longer I'll be working," he said.

His only previous win was £7 five years ago. The only prize his wife had won was a basket of strawberries at a fayre in Cheam. Mrs Caldwell, a part-time hairdresser, said: "It will definitely change our lives. Hopefully it won't change us."

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Youngest grandmaster** For many years Bobby Fischer held the record for being the world's youngest official grandmaster, achieving the title at the age of 15. Three years ago, the Hungarian girl prodigy Judit Polgar shaved one month off Fischer's record, while last year the Hungarian Peter Leko pushed the age down to 14. Just how young can a grandmaster be?

Although the official title did not exist in those days it is likely that both Paul Morphy (1837-84) and Jose Capablanca (1888-1942) were of modern grandmaster strength by the age of 12. It is possible that Samuel Reshevsky (1911-93), who performed creditably in 1922 in an international strength tournament, during which he defeated grandmaster David Janowski, was also of grandmaster strength at that age.

In the British Junior Championships at Norwich, the seven-year-old Indian prodigy, Tania Sachdev, has 100 per cent after three rounds of the British under-10 championships. She has already clinched either outright or shared first in the under-8 and under-9 events. Her ambition is clearly to smash all records and, on current evidence, she may well be capable of this.

White: Tania Sachdev Black: Murad British under-11 championship, Norwich, August 1994

**Sicilian Defence**

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd4 4 Nd5 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Be2 Bg7 7 O-O O-O 8 Kh1 b5 9 a3 Bb7 11 B3 Nc5

**Diagram of final position**

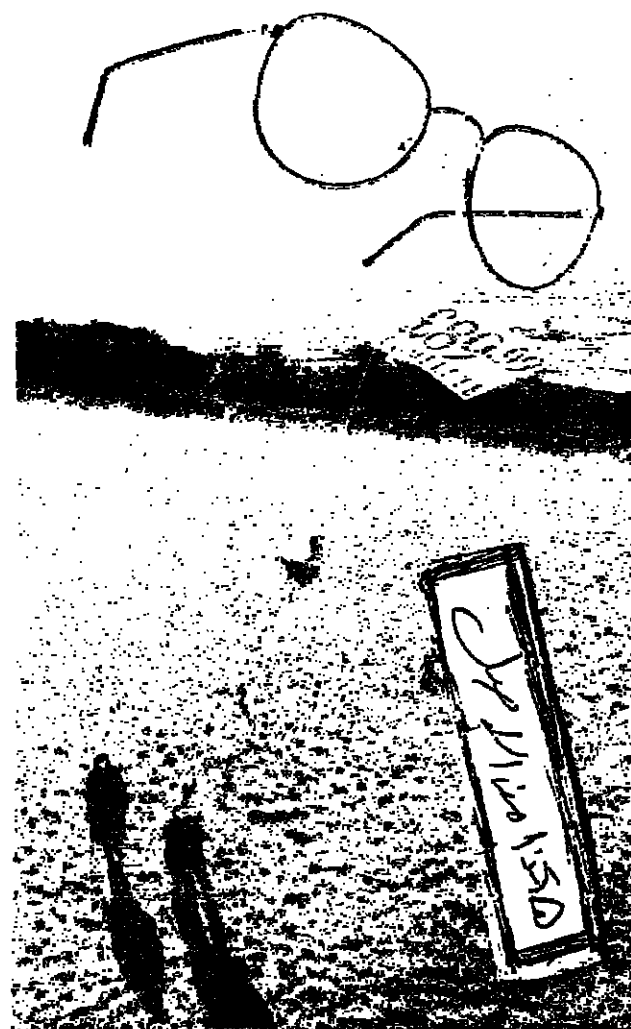
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**British championship** The leading players after eight rounds in the British Championship in Norwich are grandmaster William Watson, of London, who leads with 6.5 points ahead of Chris Ward, of Beckenham, who has 6.

Winning Move, page 40

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## Holiday industry escapes inquiry

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

MULTIPLE high street travel agents will today be told to explain their links with the big tour operators. The Office of Fair Trading has decided not to refer the package holiday industry to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but it will say in a report today that existing "ritual integration" must be open and displayed in shops.

The OFT was called in months ago after a series of mergers and takeovers created a handful of big travel chains embracing all aspects of the industry from airlines to high street agencies.

During the inquiry, however, the OFT inspectors were assured that competition — similar to that which saw cuts of up to 15 per cent from published brochure prices — was even fiercer among the big groups than when there were thousands of individual high street travel agencies.

They were also impressed with the ease with which anyone could open up as a travel agent and the lack of barriers to new entrants into the business.

Independent companies had argued that they were being prevented unfairly from having brochures displayed on travel agents' shelves because of the integration of the companies. The OFT investigators were told, however, that the three biggest tour operators — Thomson, Airtours and Owners Abroad — are given only 33 per cent of rack space in shops even though together they account for 70 per cent of sales.

A small tour operators are likely to be disappointed by the ruling, claiming that prices may be coming down now but they will eventually rise as the big chains take further control and are then able to push up prices.

Travel, pages 18-19

## Scarsdale claims National Trust vandalised his home

By SHEILA GUNN

VISCOUNT Scarsdale yesterday accused the National Trust of being high-handed and vandalising his family estate, Kedleston Hall near Derby, which is one of Britain's finest neo-classical stately homes.

The 70-year-old viscount, who still lives in the family wing of the ancestral home of the Curzons, said he was deeply hurt by the arrogant attitude of trust officials in ordering changes to the hall and grounds without consulting him. He accused the trust of "vandalism and sacrilege".

The Curzons have lived on the site for 800 years, although the most significant features, including the palladian facade, date from Robert Adam's restoration work in the mid-18th century. Lord Scars-



Scarsdale: "They just ignore us"

dale, who handed the hall to the trust in 1987, said: "As I live here, I am a bit astonished to see changes made which I believe affect the character of the place."

"Some things have just vanished. It is tantamount to

ignoring us, even though I am meant to be consulted."

Articles of furniture had disappeared from rooms to be stored in the attic because the trust felt they were not strictly late 18th century, he said. A fountain in a stone gazebo, erected by his uncle, had also been dismantled. The viscount said it "simply vanished" while he was in London for a few days.

The trust argued that the structure was dangerous as the roof might collapse and it did not look right in an 18th-century garden. "I was walking the dogs through the garden one evening and found it had been totally demolished," Lord Scarsdale said. "I thought it was vandalism to bash it down in this manner."

"I find the trust really do not pay the slightest attention to what I say, that is why I call

them rather arrogant and high-handed in their attitude. They just ignore us. I mean, I only gave them the place."

He added that he was worried by what he saw as the trust's attempts to make the hall "all 1760 Georgian". He says it was a family home and should reflect the changes through history.

Robert Walker, the National Trust's regional public affairs manager, insisted that Lord Scarsdale was consulted on changes. The fountain, he said, would be restored elsewhere when the trust had the funds. "It is our wish to have a happy relationship with donor families because they do bring a personal touch," he said. "At the end of the day the trust, as the owner, has a duty to represent the homes as accurately as possible."

Mr Walker said he could not understand Lord Scarsdale's complaints. Meetings between the peer and trust officials took place every two months to discuss changes.

Lord Scarsdale is a descendant of Lord Curzon, who was born at Kedleston Hall in 1859 and became viceroy of India at the turn of the century. According to family records, the Curzons trace their descent from Robert de Courson, seigneur of Courson near Lisieux, Normandy, who arrived in England with William the Conqueror. Robert's grandson Richard was granted land at Kedleston and properties in Derbyshire and Staffordshire.



Kedleston Hall, which Lord Scarsdale handed to the National Trust in 1987

## Crowded beaches fall foul of safety test

By NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of holidaymakers bathe on beaches that are contaminated with excrement, have inadequate safety measures, poor wheelchair access and dangerous litter.

A two-year survey by the Tidy Britain Group found that 31 beaches surveyed failed its quality test and that 19 were of particular concern. They were not only badly managed and unsightly but also posed a potentially hazardous bathing

Professor Graham Ashworth, director-general of the

group, said yesterday: "Many resorts still need a lot of work before they are of an acceptable standard for visitors."

The group gave marks to 100 beaches — rating those in the 80-100 per cent range as the best, those over 60 per cent as very good, and those under 60 per cent for beach management and water quality being the worst. Two-thirds of beaches were in the top two categories, including Benone in Co Londonderry, Cefn Sidan in Dyfed, Oddicombe in Devon, Sandbanks in Dorset, Sheerness in Kent, and Woolacombe, Devon.

The worst beaches were: Ayr, Strathclyde; Bispham,

Lancashire; Blackpool North and South; Cleveleys, Lancashire; Colwyn Bay, Clwyd; Deal, Kent; Irvine North, Strathclyde; Llandudno, Gwynedd; Looe East, Cornwall; Marsden Bay, Tyne and Wear; Marske-by-the-Sea, Cleveland; Morecambe, Lancashire; New Brighton, Merseyside; Rhyl, Clwyd; Seaton Carew, Cleveland; Southport, Merseyside; St Anne's, Lancashire; and Swansea.

Mr Ashworth said that one beach in six had no safety provision; half did not use flags to indicate safe bathing; half had inadequate wheelchair access; almost half had some trace of sewage-related

litter; and two-fifths had inadequate toilet and washing facilities.

George Howarth, shadow environment minister, said the survey showed that bathing water in some of the most popular holiday resorts was contaminated by sewage. "Studies have shown there is a real danger to children's health if they bathe or paddle in dirty sea water."

"The Government claims to want to protect the health of the nation. Yet it allows water companies to go on profiteering without cleaning up our beaches — and is even trying to weaken European legislation on bathing water quality."



Toni and Beverley Lloyd are helped ashore

## Round-the-world trip runs aground

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FAMILY who sold their home to sail around the world have been rescued less than two days after they set off. Peter Lloyd, a former merchant navy seaman, said yesterday he was determined to continue the 30,000-mile journey, despite almost sinking off Great Yarmouth in Norfolk.

Mr Lloyd, 38, set sail on Sunday with his wife, Ingrid, their daughters Beverley, 9, and Toni, 7, and their two dogs aboard the 47-year-old converted Danish trawler *Smoky Bandit*. But only 33 hours and 300 miles out of Tynemouth the engine failed and the boat was driven on to the Scroby Sands bank a mile off the East Anglian coast.

The boat sprang a leak and her pumps could not keep up with the rush of water. At 3.30am on Tuesday, with waves breaking over the vessel, Mr Lloyd sent out a mayday call. Lifeboats from

Caister and Gorleston brought out pumps to float the *Smoky Bandit* off the sandbank and took it under tow for the five-hour journey to Yarmouth.

Yesterday the Lloyds were still on dry land at a guest house in the town found by the British Sailors' Society, but were pressing on with repairs to the boat. "Hopefully we can continue our voyage once the repairs have been completed," said Mr Lloyd, who sold the family home — a houseboat in Grimsby, south Humberside — to finance the trip.

"It is our dream to sail round the world. I am an ex-merchant navy and I want to show my family all the places I have been. If a disaster like this had to happen, I am glad it happened off Great Yarmouth. It could not have happened in a better place. Everyone has been tremendous," he said.

## Baby boy abandoned in car park

Police are trying to trace the mother of a newborn baby boy found abandoned in a multi-storey car park.

A young couple returning to their car in Cardiff found the 7lb baby in a shopping bag. The child wore a babygro and was wrapped in a white blanket. A note with him said: "Please deliver to hospital." Ambulancemen took him to the nearby University Hospital where nurses have named him Joe after the ambulance driver.

## Pub reprieve

A judge at Swansea Crown Court has changed bail conditions on Michael Lanfear, 25, of Penbrey, Dyfed, so that he can go to the pub while on holiday. Mr Lanfear is banned from pubs in his home town while he awaits sentence on an assault charge.

## Fair play

David Nichols, 40, of East Bowling, West Yorks, who saved through a sign which said "No ball games" was given an absolute discharge by magistrates in Bradford after they heard that his children had nowhere to play.

## Bank raided

A gunman forced staff at Lloyds bank in Whyteleafe, Surrey, to hand over £40,000 after taking a woman assistant hostage and threatening to shoot her. The raider struck as the woman was locking the bank door.

## Well spotted

Police in Nottingham are offering £15 to young men with spots who will take part in an identity parade. "Spots are vital in this inquiry," said a police spokesman.

## Village saved

Farm workers joined firefighters to prevent the village of Monkton, Kent, being engulfed by a firestorm. The blaze destroyed 100 acres of crops.

## Mace stolen

A thief stole a 200-year-old silver mace, worth £1,000, from the vestry of Salisbury Cathedral while evensong was in progress.

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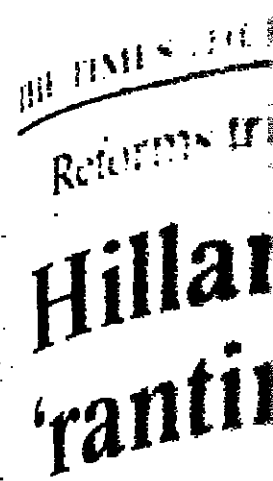


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Yitzhak Rabin at his first meeting

Writs fly out  
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Reforms trigger Capitol Hill slanging match

## Hillary Clinton hits at 'ranting' health critics

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY Clinton has gone stridently on the attack at the start of the US Senate debate on health care reform, accusing a leading Republican senator of "ranting and raving about socialised medicine". She said criticism of the Democrats' health plans by Phil Gramm, of Texas, smacked of political opportunism. Mr Gramm, a likely Republican candidate for the presidency in 1996, said: "I have found that people who resort to personal attacks only do so when they are losing the debate."

The clash coincides with scathing criticism of Mrs Clinton in this week's *Time* magazine by Michael Kramer, chief political correspondent. He says that she was "careful" in the way she avoided mentioning what she knew about the removal of White-water documents from the office of Vincent Foster, the White House lawyer who committed suicide a year ago. "Mrs Clinton is more like Mr Clinton than anyone ever realised," Mr Kramer wrote, adding: "Slick Willie, meet Slippery Hillary."

Mrs Clinton, architect of her



Clinton: strident attack

husband's health-care plan, is crusading for universal coverage, or close to it. The fight has become increasingly bitter. As she complained to a group of reporters: "This personal, vicious hatred that for the time being is aimed at the President and, to a lesser extent, myself, is very dangerous to our political system... You have to draw the line on protest that incites

violence." Even before her verbal assault on Mr Gramm, Mrs Clinton had assailed the foes of health care as having "squeaky little voices". She derided "right-wing radical ideologues who do not think people should have health care in America." Mr Clinton also demonised the opposition. He told a crowd in Michigan that violent extremist interests were trying to keep health care out of the reach of ordinary workers.

A White House official could not clarify the Clintons' references to violence, but obviously the couple feel that they have nothing to lose by vilifying opponents who have spent millions on lobbying in Washington and on television advertising to sink the health plan.

White House removal: Leon Panetta, Mr Clinton's tough new chief of staff at the White House, has claimed his first victim. He has eased out David Wilhelm as Democratic national chairman and brought in Tony Coelho, a former California congressman, as senior adviser at party headquarters.



Rescue workers fighting the fire that engulfed a Korean Airlines Airbus 300-600R after it crashed on Cheju Island yesterday

## Passengers and crew survive Korean Airbus fireball

Scout: All 160 passengers and crew escaped and only a handful were slightly injured when a Korean Airlines Airbus 300-600R on a domestic flight crashed and burst into flames as it landed in a rainstorm on the South Korean

island of Cheju yesterday. The aircraft was destabilised by sudden strong gusts of wind as it touched down. It skidded off the wet runway, struck a perimeter fence and caught fire, an airline official said, adding that the plane

stopped within 100 yards of the sea. The passengers and crew managed to leave by using the escape chutes just after the aircraft crashed, he said, although the crew were able to open only one exit because of the flames and

the angle at which the plane came to rest. The crash was the second serious accident this year involving the A300-600R: 264 people died on April 26 when an aircraft of Taiwan's China Airlines came down at Nagoya, Japan. (Reuters)

## Rabin promise to focus on Gaza self-rule

FROM BEN LYNNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

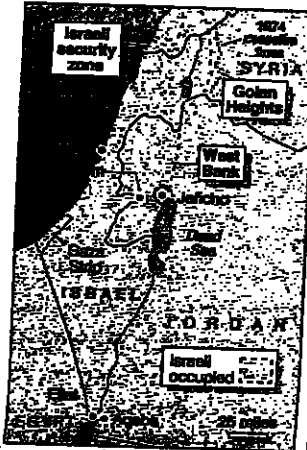
YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, seeking to reinvigorate stalled diplomacy, met Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, yesterday and the two leaders pledged to redouble their efforts to expand Palestinian self-rule.

"I stressed to the Palestinian side to the chairman, Israel's commitment to the declaration of principles and the Cairo agreement," Mr Rabin said of the two pacts outlining self-rule. "We must work it in such a way that the goals of these two documents are implemented."

The primary result of the summit, held at the Erez crossing point between the Gaza Strip self-rule area and Israel, was the setting up of intensive negotiations for next week at Erez on the spread of PLO authority beyond Jericho to the rest of the West Bank.

"We have no magic stick, but with determination we are sure that we will be able to overjump the obstacles," Mr Arafat said.

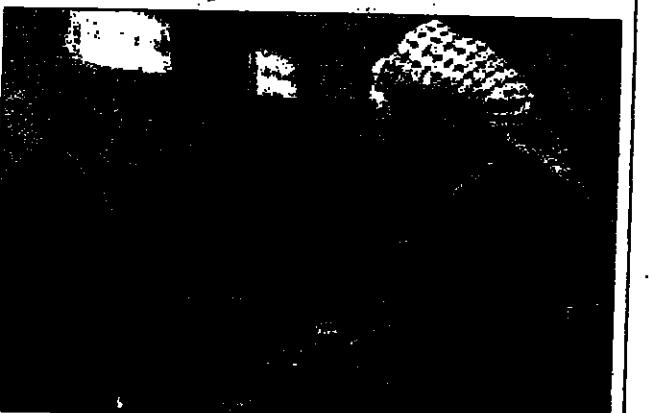
His aides said that Israel needed to refocus its attention on the PLO after two weeks of dramatic peace steps between the Jewish state and Jordan, including a cruise for Mr Rabin on King Hussein's yacht



after the opening of a southern border crossing. "Maybe Yasser Arafat does not have a beautiful yacht or fancy plane and his suit might not be as nice, but he is the leader of the Palestinian people and the Arab-Israeli conflict," Dr Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to the PLO leader, said.

Mr Arafat is under increasing pressure in Gaza to redress an unemployment rate of 50 per cent by gaining more permits for labourers to work in Israel.

Israel said yesterday that President Weizman had shortened the sentences of eight Palestinian women prisoners and that they would be freed within a day or two.



Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat at the start of their first meeting at Erez in the Gaza Strip yesterday

## Wrists fly over death of New Jersey rat

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

WITH an estimated three rats for every person in New York City you might think that when Frank Balun fatally clobbered one with a broomstick he would be hailed as having struck a blow for hygiene.

But Mr Balun, a 69-year-old Second World War veteran who caught the rat raiding his tomato patch last month in Hillside, New Jersey, was charged with "needlessly abusing" a defenceless creature and told he could be sent to prison for six months and fined up to \$1,250 (£812).

Public outrage ensued, with many people pointing out that killing rats is a matter of necessity given their huge numbers in some metropolitan areas. Wynona Lipman, New Jersey senator, drafted a bill making it legal to kill any animal considered a health threat and Mr Balun's predicament was held up as an example of one

man's fight against bureaucracy. Under the weight of criticism, the prosecutors dropped all charges.

The Associated Humane Society of Newark, which brought the charges, insists that the rat deserved a more "humane method of euthanasia" than a broom handle. "The key is not what he did but how he did it," a spokesman said.

Mr Balun caught the rat in a squirrel trap and killed it because he feared it might escape and bite his grandchildren. He then summoned the Humane Society to take away the corpse. When he went to their offices to collect his trap, he was presented with two writs. "I said: 'Holy God, this is crazy. Is this for real?'" Mr Balun said.

But Mr Balun, who was an air gunner during the war, now has the animal rights activists in his sights and plans to sue the society.

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# Rose threatens Bosnia Muslims with air strikes

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE United Nations has for the first time threatened Bosnia's Muslims with Nato air strikes to punish them for fighting inside Sarajevo's weapons exclusion zone.

The warning by Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, the commander of UN forces in Bosnia, was matched by a similar threat to the Bosnian Serbs after banned heavy weapons were used by both sides to fire hundreds of shells at each other on the northern edge of the 12-mile exclusion zone on Tuesday.

It was not known who started the fighting, but the Muslims are believed to be taking advantage of the rift between the Bosnian Serbs and the regime in Belgrade to try to seize the military initiative.

Claire Grimes, UN spokesman in Sarajevo, said: "There has been heavy shelling... the firing is coming from both sides. That led to a warning shot from General Rose that Nato aircraft would be over the area and, if the shelling continued, he would use all necessary measures to stop it, including air power."

The air strike warning had an instant effect. Ms Grimes said last night, and the battlefield outside Sarajevo was quiet yesterday.

The Muslim-led government forces have been pressing forward on several fronts recently, including a determined push to crush the separatist Muslim rebellion in the northern Bihać region and against Serbs in eastern and central Bosnia.

A big prize in the fighting near Sarajevo is control of a road linking the area to the central town of Olovo. It is a key military supply route during bad winter weather.

In Bihać, Fikret Abdic, the rebel Muslim leader, said that



Rose: warning had immediate effect

he would fight on, even though UN sources said he was facing defeat after a tank shell killed his military commander. Mr Abdic, who has lost half his territory, said: "I will stay with my people to fight for autonomy... We cannot be defeated; we are unbeatable." The rebel leader, who is in a fort in Velika Kladusa, said he had offered to open talks with President Izetbegovic through General Rose, but he said the Bosnian leader had refused.

In a series of offensives, government forces have taken Pecigrad on the southern approaches to Velika Kladusa. Two rebel towns near the Croatian border, Trzaci and Sturlic, fell to the army on Tuesday.

A senior UN official said that one tank round fired straight into the surrounded rebels' command centre in Pecigrad, which killed the

local commander, had triggered the rebel collapse. Nevzat Djeric, the dead commander, was a charismatic 30-year-old refugee from Serb-held Bosnia and a former Yugoslav federal army officer regarded by his foes as a crack tactician and revered by his largely amateurish troops.

In the Croatian capital, Zagreb, Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy, called on Bosnia's warring factions to stop fighting and resume peace talks.

"At this critical juncture, I appeal to all sides to show the utmost military restraint," Mr Akashi said. "It would be too easy for the forces of war to prevail again in Bosnia. The real test of statesmanship and political courage is to engage seriously in the peace process, comply with the existing agreements and to continue negotiations in a constructive manner."

His statement appeared on the day a ceasefire agreement between Bosnian Muslims and Serbs expired. The truce was agreed in Geneva in June 8 and then extended for another month, but never observed, and the UN said it would not bother to try to extend it for another month.

"Regrettably, despite the positive progress made in certain areas, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina remains fragile and the honouring of the (Geneva) agreement by both sides has been far from satisfactory," Mr Akashi said. "Fighting continues in central and northern Bosnia."

A UN official in Sarajevo reported heavy fighting in the area south of Vares and Breza, on the road linking the northern Muslim stronghold of Tuzla and the capital Sarajevo. The Bosnian army was bringing in reinforcements.

Mr Akashi said the security situation in Sarajevo had undergone a serious deterioration. As a positive sign, though, he said no side had launched a significant military offensive since June 8 and the Red Cross had been able to bring about an exchange of prisoners.

In the meantime, Mate Boban, the former leader of Bosnian Croats who was dropped earlier this year by his mentor, President Tudjman of Croatia, has surfaced again as a senior executive in the state oil company.

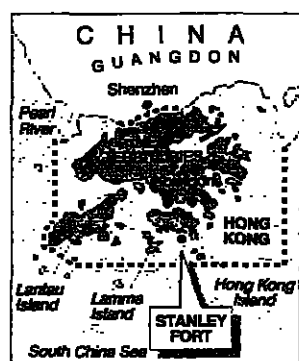
Mr Boban was forced to resign last February when Mr Tudjman came under US pressure to agree to the Muslim-Croat federation. Under Mr Boban's leadership, Bosnian Croats set up detention camps for Muslims and were accused of forcing Muslims from their homes.



A bugler sounds the Retreat as a soldier lowers the flag for the last time at Stanley Fort

## British Army prepares for new guard at Stanley Fort

The flag was lowered on more than 150 years of British military tradition in Hong Kong as the gates clanged shut on Stanley Fort yesterday. In less than three years, when the colony is handed back to China, Stanley Fort will belong to the People's Liberation Army. The fort, on the south side of Hong Kong island, had been the site of a British garrison since September 1841, when soldiers were sent to what was then a notorious pirate stronghold. Many of the buildings in the fort, which the Japanese ran as an internment camp during the Second World War, will be used for housing. (Reuters)



## Russia to withdraw army from bases in Moldavia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ONE of the thorniest ethnic disputes in the former Soviet Union may be closer to being resolved after Russia agreed yesterday to withdraw thousands of troops from the disputed Dnestr region of Moldavia.

At the end of the tenth round of talks between Russian and Moldavian negotiators in the Moldavian capital of Kishinev, the two sides reached a preliminary agreement to withdraw the Russian 14th Army over the next three years. The deal, initiated by the negotiators, will still have to be approved by the two governments and signed by the leaders of the two states concerned. Vladimir Kitayev, Russia's ambassador to Kishinev, added that the withdrawal would take place "taking into account the realities of the region", a reference to the need for a political settlement between Moldavia and the breakaway republic of Dnestr, where the Russian forces are based.

The first indication that a deal seemed close was given by the observer delegation of the self-proclaimed republic, which walked out of the talks in protest, on Tuesday. The breakaway state, which represents the majority of ethnic Russians who make up 13 per cent of Moldavia's population, has been protected by a Russian military presence since Dnestr was created in 1992.

"We are not going to take part in the talks in the capacity of observers or back-up actors," Major General Stefan Kitsak, the Dnestr delegation leader, said. "Only when we are recognised as an equal party and our proposals are taken into account, shall we agree to negotiations."

He added ominously that a withdrawal of the 14th Army "will automatically lead to an imbalance of forces in the region and to a new spiral of confrontation", a reference to the bloody fighting in June 1992 between Moldavia and Dnestr, which left several hundred people dead.

Although the Kremlin seems determined to dismantle the 15,000-man force, and plans as a first step to reduce it to divisional strength, its disengagement is unlikely to go smoothly, unless it can patch together a deal between Kishinev and Tiraspol, capital of the breakaway republic.

However, the Dnestr republic has so far given no indication that it is willing to compromise its sovereignty, a fact underscored yesterday by the arrival of its first banknotes, scheduled to be distributed as legal tender on September 1.

## German judge praises neo-Nazi

Bonn: The German government has criticised a Mannheim court for praising the character of Günter Deckert, the leader of the far-right National Democratic Party, after it jailed him for a year for denying that the Holocaust took place.

A spokesman for Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, said the government regretted the bad signals given by the sentence. Other critics said it would encourage neo-Nazis who have been waging a campaign against foreigners.

Deckert was also fined 10,000 marks (£4,100) in June for spreading the view that there had been no gas chambers at the Auschwitz Nazi death camp. (Reuters)

## Legal move

Lagos: Six of Nigeria's leading human rights groups have asked a court to declare the military government of General Sani Abacha illegal. Two oil unions, which want power handed to Chief Moshood Abiola, are preparing for talks with the government while maintaining a month-old strike. (Reuters)

## Rwanda appeal

Brussels: Médecins Sans Frontières, the medical charity, has appealed for a huge presence of human rights monitors in Rwanda to convince refugees it is safe for them to return home. The charity estimates that more than 600,000 Rwandan refugees are still in Goma, Zaire. (Reuters)

## Cholera deaths

Moscow: Special medicines and a disinfecting team have been sent to the autonomous region of Dagestan, in the Caucasus, where 250 people are believed to have caught cholera. Fourteen people have died. Health officials said the disease could be contained if it did not penetrate the main reservoirs. (Reuters)

## Artist's secrets

New York: The diary of the artist Frida Kahlo, which has been locked up in a Mexican bank since her death 40 years ago, is being auctioned among American publishers. The diary includes drawings and paintings never previously exhibited. Kahlo was largely unrecognised in her lifetime. (Reuters)

## Men executed

Peking: China, seeking to end an age-old tradition of discrimination against women, has executed eight people in one day for committing violent crimes against them, including murder, rape and robbery. Executions in China are usually carried out with a bullet to the back of the head. (Reuters)

## Father killer

Tampa, Florida: A Florida man has been convicted of first-degree murder in the hired killing of his abusive father, a clown-headed carnival performer known as the "Lobster Boy". The jury found Harry Glenn Newman guilty of hiring a neighbour to shoot his father, Grady Stiles, for \$1,500. (Reuters)

## Incredible elk

Stockholm: Tourists fascinated by the elk are acquiring roadside warning signs bearing the creature's silhouette at an unprecedented rate. Companies are selling the yellow triangular signs bordered in red direct to the public. Germans are especially keen to buy. (Reuters)

## Dog's windfall

Sydney: Blackie, a one-eyed, six-year-old dog has inherited a £24,000 trust fund from John Goodchild, who died last year, to enable the animal to be looked after. But Goodchild's son, David, is contesting Blackie's windfall. Judgment has been reserved. (Reuters)

## French unease grows over spread of secret surveillance

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

IN A modern white-walled police station, officers sit in front of a bank of video screens, flicking from image to image, watching pedestrians hurry home, studying a couple of youngsters outside a shop.

It may sound like a scene from George Orwell, but in Levallois-Perret, on the outskirts of Paris, such surveillance is a daily affair. Soon, similar systems will be operating throughout France as part of a campaign by Charles Pasqua, the country's pugnacious Interior Minister, to curb the growing crime rate. For a nation that likes to boast that it invented human rights, however, such measures are deeply controversial, drawing loud protests from civil rights activists and more discreet opposition even from President Mitterrand. It is a debate that has been fuelled in recent days by M Pasqua's moves to head off the threat of a terrorist attack by Muslim extremists by putting in place a wide-ranging security operation in Paris.

In response, M Pasqua's aides point out that Frenchmen are increasingly concerned about crime and that tough steps have to be taken to reassure them. If these steps push the government onto the

hitherto sacred ground of human rights, that is the price for waging war against criminals who are more and more sophisticated and ruthless, they say.

Last month M Pasqua introduced a Bill in the Senate giving police the right to set up video surveillance in areas of high crime and to stop and search people near protest demonstrations. This last drew criticism from M Mitterrand, who claimed

that it interfered with the right of Frenchmen to demonstrate. But the argument cut no ice with M Pasqua, who pointed out that police were attacked during youth protests earlier this year, adding: "We cannot allow some people to walk around armed with impunity."

He also rebutted President Mitterrand's call for video surveillance to be placed under the control of the National Commission on

Information Technology and Freedom, arguing that the issue fell outside that body's jurisdiction.

For all that, the government has failed to dispel a sense of unease that modern technology is infringing the right to privacy, and not just through the use of video cameras.

Last year, for instance, a former minister serving as an alibi to Bernard Tapie, the socialist tycoon and soccer boss, in a match-rigging

scandal, saw doubt cast on his evidence by his own motorway toll card. The records left by this microchip card proved that he had been in his car on the A1 motorway when he claimed to have been in M Tapie's office.

In the same affair, police used hotel telephone records to show that members of M Tapie's club, Olympique Marseille, had been in touch with opposing players on the

night before the allegedly rigged match. The information commission now recommends that hotels destroy such records as soon as guests pay their bills.

This is by no means the only case in which telephones have become the subject of controversy. Last year, for example, it was disclosed that a now-disbanded security unit at the Elysée Palace had bugged journalists, lawyers and even an actress.

The practise has stopped, according to M Mitterrand's aides, but even so, other branches of the security services are believed to tap about 200,000 telephones a year.

The most famous French telephone to be tapped in recent months, however, was that of the ubiquitous M Tapie, this time the subject of an investigation into tax evasion. The move prompted fury among his parliamentary colleagues, but was useful in at least one respect, since a transcript of his conversation showed that he was planning an urgent "peacekeeping" mission to Rwanda — a move that would have been of limited benefit to that country's starving refugees but of immense benefit to the beleaguered tycoon. As a result of the information, M Tapie was hauled into the investigating judge's office and Rwanda had to make do without him.

## Pasqua intensifies crackdown on militants

BY ADAM SAGE

POLICE in Paris yesterday tightened the net around Muslim extremists as the government reaffirmed its hardline policy on Algeria. Six more suspects were interned in the village of Folembay, bringing to 22 the number held in a disused barracks. Another detainee was moved to an undisclosed destination.

Algeria said yesterday that it had identified the instigator and leader of a guerrilla attack on a French embassy housing compound in Algiers last week in which five French government employees were killed. A statement by the security services named the suspect

as Djamel Zitouni, 26, whom it described as an activist of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front. It did not say whether he was in custody.

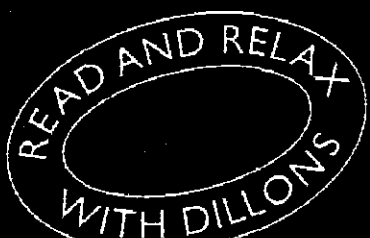
Meanwhile, for the fourth night running, police in central Paris questioned almost 3,000 drivers, 36 of whom were detained. But with Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister, insisting that tight security would be maintained, the government found itself under attack.

Opponents claimed that M Pasqua had infringed human rights, criticising in particular a decision to search detainees' lawyers during a visit yesterday.



Pasqua: insists that tight security will be maintained

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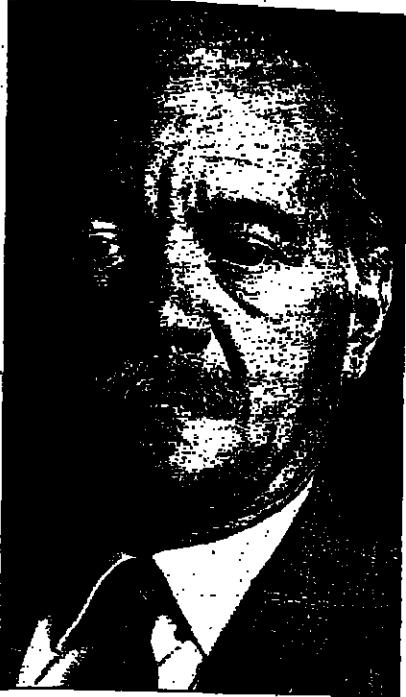
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# Argentina says Belgrano sinking was lawful act of war

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Bonzo has 'no feelings of anger' about the sinking of his ship

ARGENTINA has decided that the sinking of the battleship *General Belgrano* during the Falklands campaign was a legitimate act of war — just three months after President Menem said that Baroness Thatcher might have to face extradition over the affair.

An Argentine Defence Ministry report released this week says the sinking of the cruiser by the British submarine, *HMS Conqueror*, in May 1982 "was a legal act of war".

The attack, in which 323 of the ship's crew of 1,093 perished, took place outside the exclusion zone, the report says, but "acts of war can be carried out in all of the enemy's territory... they can also take place in those areas over which no state can claim sovereignty, in international waters".

In May, President Menem astonished diplomats when he said: "We have to determine whether the sinking of the *General Belgrano* was a war crime or not. If it was, much as I respect her, we would have to request Margaret Thatcher's extradition."

Argentina's verdict that the *Belgrano*'s sinking was not a war crime is not as

much of U-turn as it first appears. Rear Admiral Gualto Allara, commander of Argentina's sea forces during the Falklands conflict, said five years ago that "the entire South Atlantic was an operational theatre for both sides". In *The Fight for the Malvinas*, a book by Martin Middlebrook, the war historian, Admiral Allara added: "We as professionals said it was just too bad that we lost the *Belgrano*."

Captain Hector Bonzo, commander of the *Belgrano*, says in the book: "By no means do I have any feelings of anger... I realised from the outset that the 200-mile limit did not exclude danger or risks. It was the same in or out."

The sinking of the *Belgrano* marked a turning point in the conflict, the *Buenos Aires Herald* said yesterday, "leaving many Argentines dispirited and asking themselves if regaining the islands was worth the loss of such a number of young lives".

This week's report does allege, however, that British troops murdered Argentine soldiers. Oscar Camillion, the Defence Minister, ordered the creation of a joint armed services panel to continue

The mortally wounded battleship *General Belgrano* seen from a liferaft

investigating the allegations of British atrocities. Britain rejected the accusations yesterday. A government spokesman said that British judicial authorities "have decided after lengthy inquiries that there was insufficient evidence to press for any conviction" of soldiers allegedly

involved. London had not yet received a formal request from Buenos Aires calling for anyone to be tried in Britain.

Señor Camillion said that his move would put Lieutenant General Mario Candido Diaz, the head of the joint chiefs of staff, in charge of forming the

investigative panel "to continue and complete the investigation". An alleged victim of attempted murder, José Oscar Carrizo, said in evidence carried in the latest Argentine report that after the battle for Mount Longdon, British troops tried to shoot him in the head while he was unarmed and after he had been taken prisoner.

The report also says that Argentine prisoners of war were forced to remove land mines and weapons and that at least three were killed in one incident. It goes on to say that British forces shot dead six wounded Argentine troops.

Luis Ibanez, president of the Federation of Argentine War Veterans, was quoted yesterday as saying: "The report vindicates what we have been saying for many years. We would like to see an international court try the soldiers responsible."

In a sign that the *Belgrano* sinking will not be forgotten as soon as the authorities in Buenos Aires and London might hope, Señior Ibanez added: "We hope to produce more witnesses to show that the sinking of the *General Belgrano* was also a war crime."

Britain and Argentina restored diplomatic relations in 1990.

## Flight of Nasreen puts Bangladesh leadership at risk

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

BEGUM Khalida Zia, the Bangladesh Prime Minister, will pay a political price for co-operating in the escape of Taslima Nasreen, the feminist author who fled to Sweden yesterday. Denials of official assistance in the dawn operation at Dhaka airport will be dismissed as she could not have made such a getaway without government help.

Extremists are determined to destabilise Miss Zia's three-year-old government, the first democratic administration in the country's 23-year history, and Ms Nasreen is their best weapon. The government's authority and credibility are in tatters, primarily because of its disastrous handling of the affair. Spraying the author abroad is a measure of its desperation to regain the initiative.

The Bangladesh Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs ministries were accused yesterday of denying all knowledge of the author's movements. For weeks the government informed her through intermediaries that it wanted her to go abroad and would help her, provided she first surrendered to the courts. She did so last week after being assured that she would

get bail. The extremists will try to muster a mass response, but they may fail. They are finding it difficult to convince Bangladeshis that they should be outraged by the writings of a former government doctor who was a popular newspaper columnist. She did not, evidently, offend the average Bangladeshi in her risqué articles about love and liberation. Only when extremist mullahs intervened did she become a pariah.

Ms Nasreen, 32, has been divorced twice, has advocated



Zia: extremists ready to disrupt her government

free love and has lived with men, which is all very unusual for a Bangladeshi woman. A Dhaka court this week refused to hear a complaint by a cleric against the BBC for showing film of Ms Nasreen smoking a cigarette while apparently thumbing through a copy of the Koran.

She has made her name through shock tactics rather than literary reputation. Even liberals accuse her of writing soft pornography for commercial advantage and respect her courage more than her talent.

She clearly understands how to play to the gallery. Friends say she remained in hiding in Dhaka for two months, not so much for fear of death threats made by two provincial mullahs who have no national following, but because of its publicity value.

Liberals say her campaign against fundamentalists has been exaggerated. Bangladeshis, with extremists, although its secular credentials are deeply rooted. It does not even have a blasphemy law.

The decision to prosecute Ms Nasreen under a century-old British colonial law for insulting the religious sentiments of Muslims was seen by ministers as a sop to the extremists, whose nuisance value is immense, even if their popularity is not. The history of Bangladesh is marked with such concessions and the government was astonished at the international reaction.

Several weeks ago Norway privately offered sanctuary to Ms Nasreen and indicated that it would welcome an application for political asylum. The European Union also offered an invitation to her, although Britain remained silent. "One Salman Rushdie is enough," a senior British source said. The Norwegian Foreign Ministry has invited her to attend a writers' forum on freedom of expression next month. This was channelled through the Indian Rationalist Association, a humanist group whose work includes the debunking of religious superstitions.

The charge against her alleges that she told a Calcutta newspaper, *The Statesman*, that the Koran should be rewritten. Ms Nasreen said she was misquoted and that she was referring to *Sharia* (Islamic law), not the Koran.

Nasreen flees, page 1

## Dhaka considers how to curb press

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

BANGLADESH, with nearly 80 per cent illiteracy, has 189 daily newspapers. Most survive on government advertising, which keeps them docile. Ministers are studying ways of honing this weapon, raising the prospect of intensified intimidation of the press.

In newspaper circles there is alarm that the plans, if implemented, could curtail freedom to report controversial stories such as the campaign by Islamic fundamentalists against Taslima Nasreen, the feminist author who fled to Sweden early yesterday. The press is only slowly emerging from almost continuous suppression during most of the country's existence: even the threat of tighter controls could drive newspapers back to their familiar caution.

Many editors say that press freedom is more theory than

fact in Bangladesh, given that at least two thirds of all advertising revenue comes from the government. This is distributed in ways that reward compliant newspapers and punish rebels.

Kazi Shahid Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Newspaper Publishers' Association, said that the press had never been free. All government advertising was channelled through the Ministry of Information, concentrating power in a few hands.

The other weapon of control is newspaper. The government owns the only print mill and newspapers are not allowed to buy from foreign suppliers. "Favoured newspapers get a larger quota than the rest," Akbar Kagoj, a newspaper owner, said. "Some of them have so much spare paper they sell it on the black market."



Maury Kravitz with companions on a recent visit to Mongolia searching for the secret tomb of Genghis Khan

## Chicago trader embarks on quest for Genghis Khan's lost treasure

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

SOMEWHERE in the wilderness of Mongolia's north-central steppes lies the tomb of Genghis Khan and the treasure hoard he took to his secret grave in 1227.

Now, out of the west, comes an unlikely adventurer who plans to plunder the grave of the mighty conqueror as Genghis once pillaged the world from China to the Caspian Sea. He is Maury Kravitz, a 62-year-old commodity trader from Chicago.

Mr Kravitz, who works at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange by day and studies the history of Mongolia by night, believes he has ascertained the whereabouts of Genghis's tomb, which he calls "the greatest unreturned treasure trove in the history of the world".

Last month Mr Kravitz persuaded the Mongolian government to grant him exclusive rights to search for the tomb for the next five years, and he is seeking corporate sponsors to finance an expedition he estimates will cost around \$5.5 million (£3.6 million). Genghis, anticipating just such a man as Maury Kravitz, took elaborate, characteristically ruthless precautions to ensure that he and his booty were left undisturbed: according to legend, the 2,000 servants who accompanied their master's body to the tomb were slaughtered by Mongolian troops immediately after the ceremony.

As a double safeguard, the soldiers were also executed when they returned to the ancient Mongolian capital of Karako-



Genghis took treasure to grave

rum, and no trace of Genghis or his treasure has even been discovered. A Japanese expedition set out in 1989 with helicopters and sophisticated technology but abandoned the search last year.

The Mongolian government appears to be less concerned with the contents of Genghis's tomb than the publicity value of Mr Kravitz's quest. "With communism gone, it would be a boost to nationalism. It would also be an important thing for

tourism," a spokesman for the Mongolian embassy in Washington said.

Most artefacts recovered by Mr Kravitz would be the property of the Mongolian government, but the amateur historian insists "this is not a treasure hunt, this is a historical-geographical expedition".

Mr Kravitz admits his hunch on the site of the tomb is no more than informed guesswork. After 35 years of study he believes the Mongolian emperor has been maligned by historians and should not be mentioned in the same breath as Attila the Hun. Genghis, he says, only slaughtered entire populations when they resisted, while establishing laws, a written language and the first long-distance postal service.

He was also terrified of his wife, Bortai, and has a good claim to be one of the world's earliest feminists, according to Mr Kravitz.

Genghis Khan, which means "universal ruler", and his descendants forged an empire stretching from the Sea of Japan to Eastern Europe, and from Siberia to the borders of Southeast Asia. "He built a military machine that's never been equalled," Mr Kravitz told *The Chicago Tribune*. "You don't measure his conquests in miles but in latitude and longitude."

Mr Kravitz refuses to specify precisely where he believes the tomb is located and, judging from previous history, anyone he does tell would be well advised to take out life insurance before setting out with him.

## Menem threatens to expel Iranian diplomats

BY DAVID ADAMS  
LATIN AMERICA  
CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Menem of Argentina threatened to expel the Iranian Ambassador after a judge issued arrest warrants for four absent Iranian diplomats over the bombing of a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires which killed nearly 100 people.

"I believe, at the least, that the withdrawal or expulsion of the ambassador is appropriate," Señor Menem said on state radio. He emphasised, however, that a final decision would be up to the Foreign Ministry, as he had only just read the preliminary finding in which the investigating judge said the diplomats "may have played a part in the events... and this is why their arrest is ordered worldwide".

Judge Juan José Galeano said that the four all served at the embassy in Buenos Aires, and were named by an Iranian dissident in Venezuela whom he described as a former secretary in Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Also named as a suspect was Moshan Rabbani, Iran's cultural attaché in Buenos Aires, who is reported to have visited car dealers before the bombing to inquire about vans identical to the one that was packed with explosives outside the community centre.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said that the Supreme Court would decide whether there was enough evidence to mount an international search for the four. The official dismissed as "a mere hypothesis" the possibility of expelling any current Iranian diplomats.

The judge, who is being helped by American and Israeli investigators, said that there had been an unusual increase in diplomatic activity at the embassy before the bombing. He said that six visas had been issued in May and June for couriers carrying diplomatic bags, rather than the single visa normally issued over such a period.

Iran has denied any involvement in the bombing on July 18 and protested to Argentina yesterday over the judge's accusations.

Three Argentines have been arrested as unwitting accomplices, charged with forging the papers of the van used in the attack and the removal of its engine, but they are not believed to have been involved in the bomb plot.

## Cuban refugees accused of killing officer

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

TWENTY-six Cuban refugees who escaped from the island by hijacking a naval vessel were detained yesterday by American officials after they were rescued by the US Coast Guard.

Cuba said that a naval lieutenant was killed during the hijacking and demanded that the United States should return the refugees to stand trial. But the refugees are said to have told the Coast Guard that nobody on the vessel had been killed.

According to Cuban diplomats the 50 ft barge was hijacked on Monday evening in the port of Mariel, a few miles west of the capital. After Cuba made contact with the US Coast Guard the boat was seen about 60 miles southwest of the Florida Keys.

The Coast Guard said that no weapons were found on board. The 26 passengers were all reported to be in good health.

A spate of hijackings in recent weeks has caused a new crisis in relations between Cuba and the US

and has fuelled fears about a possible mass exodus from Cuba. According to the Coast Guard, more than 5,000 Cubans have left the island in makeshift rafts and small boats this year.

President Castro has threatened to unleash a flood of Cuban refugees if Washington takes no action to tighten its policy on Cuban immigration. US officials are taking the threat seriously.

This latest case will be an interesting test. In the past the US has not prosecuted hijackers. But this is also the first time that refugees have been accused of murdering a Cuban to make their getaway.

American immigration officials yesterday detained the 26 refugees rather than giving them the asylum status that is normally granted to Cubans. The US Justice Department said that no decision on their fate would be taken until an investigation had been carried out.

President Castro, the embattled Cuban leader, as portrayed by a Russian cartoonist, Mochalov, of *Moscow Tribune*

## Haiti bishops denounce invasion plan

Rome Roman Catholic bishops in Haiti said in a message published yesterday that a United Nations resolution allowing an American-led invasion of the impoverished Caribbean state was illegal.

The Haitian Bishops' Conference said an invasion would further divide the nation and hark back to the US occupation of Haiti between 1915 and 1934. "This decision... makes us tremble with indignation as we think of the horrors of the occupation," they said in a "message to the people of God and men of goodwill," published by the Vatican. "Humiliations, massacres of innocents, forced labour, beatings, torture, repression and rape. That was the suffering borne by our people," they added.

The UN Security Council last week authorised an invasion of Haiti to restore Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the ousted President, to power. (Reuters)

## Product recall notification Chad Valley Nursery Playball Item Reference 306A0090



Woolworths has learned of a fault in a Chad Valley Park Nursery Playball, which could prove hazardous. The Nursery Playball is priced at 99p, and bears the barcode 8001011054657 both on the packaging and the ball itself.

The fault concerns the air plug which may be loose and can become detached from the ball.

As a precautionary measure, any customer who has purchased this item since April 1994 should return it to the nearest Woolworths store, where a full refund will be given.

If this is not possible, please send the item by parcel post to Customer Services Department, Woolworths plc, Woolworth House, 243-246 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JL.

The purchase price, postage and packing will be refunded.



# The triumphant failure

STEPHEN MARKESON

Julian Critchley's  
pride in never  
having made it to  
the top is almost  
convincing, says  
Julia Llewellyn  
Smith

Julian Critchley is lying resplendent on his sofa, looking rather like a Roman emperor. As usual, he is boasting about having nothing to boast about. "You know that I am the only MP from my intake in 1959 who has not been promoted, knighted or honoured in any way at all?" he asks, as if I would know him for any other reason. Critchley has made a success out of being a failure.

But there is still hope. "I could go to Richard Ryder [the Chief Whip] and announce I was retiring tomorrow," he chuckles in his ebullient fashion. "He would be on his knees saying 'Stay, the Liberals will win Aldershot in a by-election'. I'd get at least a knighthood to keep me there."

Cheeky statements like these have been both Critchley's making and his undoing. What many secretly think, Critchley is unafraid to bellow. He called Mrs Thatcher the "great she elephant", thus scuppering all chances of political advancement. Editors, however, were queuing up to print his criticisms, so the Member for Aldershot never had to learn how to live on a backbench salary alone.

But these days the former maverick is a diligent loyalist. "I like John Major," he says. "He's always been extremely courteous to me." Despite this, Critchley has not made a speech in this parliament, he last voted in July's vote of confidence and he hasn't been near his constituency — where in 1991 Thatcher devoted tried and failed to desert him — for a year. "My colleagues think I'm dead," he says.

Critchley is in constant pain. He has been for the past three years as a result of the polio that 40 years ago left him lame in his right leg. "I can't sit comfortably or stand up unsupported for any length of time," he says. A pair of crutches lie near at hand.

He is more comfortable now, thanks to regular visits to the pain clinic at Guy's Hospital. At the end of the month he will have some injections in his spine. He will always be crippled, but he will, he hopes, be well enough to return to the Commons. He is retiring at the next election, his successor as Conservative candidate being Gerald Howarth, Lady Thatcher's PPS after she stood down. Critchley is not one to miss an irony. "Every MP is succeeded by someone who'll be diametrically opposite to him," he says. "I suppose it could have been worse, it could have been a black, one-legged lesbian."

Despite his obvious frailty, Critchley maintains the flamboyancy which inspired Westminster secretaries to name his as Britain's best-dressed statesman, and which, in his youth, provoked an upbraiding



A maverick at home — Julian Critchley has never been afraid to bellow what his colleagues at Westminster secretly think

for wearing suede shoes in the Commons tea room. He is wearing a striped green blazer over a blue and white shirt, brown cords and Fair Isle socks and a tatty pair of sneakers. Specs dangle from around his neck, his white hair stands up in a tufted shock.

His constituency is run at long distance from his 18th-century terrace house in Ludlow, Shropshire. He has his phone and fax and a pile of books to review for the papers. He also has Prue, love of his life since his student days in Paris. They had a year of passion, separated on return, married other people. Critchley was with his second wife Heather for 27 years, then, in 1983, their eyes met by chance across the crowded central lobby in the House of Commons.

Two years ago they went public, although there were already glaring clues in Critchley's two novels *Hung Parliament* and *Floating Voter*, where his hero, a backbench MP, realises that "love at 60 is no different from love at 20". In private life, as in public, Critchley seems unable to keep his mouth shut.

Still, Critchley has not exaggerated Prue's charms and the couple are plainly devoted, watching and

listening to each other with rapt attention. "The only thing we disagree about is Mrs Thatcher," says Prue. "I loved her. I'm much more right wing than he is."

She will receive another prose tribute in Critchley's autobiography *A Bag of Boiled Sweets* (sweets are the only safe pleasure for a politician), which will be published by Faber in the autumn. "Orwell said that an honest autobiography can only be about failure. It is a reaction against the sort of books that medium-rank Cabinet ministers decide to publish with titles like *The Hand on the Tiller*, most of which are full of self-justification and are unreadable."

His autobiography will certainly be readable, but the justifications will still be there. Critchley protests too much about his failure. "I don't want a knighthood. I've done nothing to deserve it." But he must be disappointed not to have even made it to ministerial level. "I was at first, year after year went by watching the feet of competitors climb the ladder. It's a pity because it's a bit like being in the army and never having heard a shot fired in

anger. By the time Margaret came I knew my chances were finished." Why, though, did he choose to stay in Parliament? "I think I am an acute observer and I could combine being an MP with writing."

The problem, he says, is that he has never believed strongly enough in anything. He became a Tory because his mother said all the nice girls were in the Young Conservatives and has remained resolutely in the centre, except, perhaps, on Europe, which he believes in passionately.

He also believed in Michael Heseltine, whom he backed in the 1990 leadership challenge. If the bid had been successful, there would have been a Cabinet job — possibly in defence. As it was, Thatcher loyalists tried and failed to desert him. He held on to his seat at the election with a slightly increased majority.

Heseltine remains the strongest link with the political world. Critchley is currently revising his biography of his old friend from Oxford ("You can find it on the remaindered rack at Waterloo station"), adding a "Whither Heseltine" chapter, in which he will assess Tarzan's revived prospects, as possible challenger to Major (alongside Clarke and Portillo) in 1995.

Critchley can't get terribly worked up about the prospect, nor does he care that his friend outstripped him. "I don't have the physical and mental stamina. Working with Michael not a minute is wasted. I can do part of the morning, then I have to go off to the pictures."

This is what he does now, writing in the morning, watching French weepies on the video in the afternoon, and retreating early and dragged, to bed. After an hour's conversation, he is flagging and, distracted, to be revived only temporarily, by a glass of wine and a delicious lunch prepared by Prue.

Will his book be as malevolent as that of his friend Alan Clark? "I was surprised to find that I wasn't being particularly bitchy," he says eventually in his mesmeric, radio-friendly voice. "Illness puts a different perspective on things." You suspect Critchley is often too tired to do more than tick off the days until he can abandon any pretence at duty, in favour of sitting in the garden with Prue, watching the ducks waddle in the back yard.

## A breed apart on Exmoor

The cautionary story of a unique pony and a tribe of bureaucratic meddlers

AFTER years of being tamed, nibbled away at and generally ruined by farmers, foresters and barn-converters, Exmoor has suddenly become what must surely be the most fussed-over patch of wild country in the entire world. No fewer than 25 statutory bodies are involved, and herds of semi-wild bureaucrats are now to be found roaming the hills, offering millions of pounds in grants for mutually contradictory purposes.

The question is, which among this extraordinarily rich variety of bureaucratic species and sub-species will prove the fittest, and survive? The answer will come too late for the Exmoor red grouse, which at one time had as much reason to fear August 12 as their Scottish cousins. In theory they still do, since — such are the strange ways of conservationists — they have no special protection against being shot, but there are so far as we know only six of them left. True, these few have the sense to stay on Dunkery Beacon where the National Trust forbids shooting, but only the sunniest optimist would put that down to an evolutionary development in avian brainpower. The grouse, I fear, have had it.

Exmoor ponies on the other hand, look like being winners, even though there are still fewer genuine examples of this strange, primitive breed than there are giant pandas. The shaggy pony story is a useful cautionary tale and, because it stands a good chance of having a happy ending, I shall tell it to you.

As Dr Sue Baker shows in her erudite tome *Survival Of The Fittest: A Natural History of the Exmoor Pony*, this direct descendant of the prehistoric horse made it as far as the 1990s only by the skin of its distinctly peculiar teeth. By the beginning of the war farmers and carriers no longer had any use for them, and by the end of the war the combined efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior had reduced the number of pure-bred Exmoor ponies to under 50.

There were plenty of cross-bred riding ponies about with some of the Exmoor's stumpy characteristics but only a few individuals realised the importance of maintaining the pure-bred gene pool and formed the Exmoor Pony Society. The whole point of the breed, as they saw, was that it would be able to maintain its unique hardness only by being left to fend for itself.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of

Agriculture missed this point when it finally abandoned its policy of turning the moor into farmland and decided instead to start doling out ESA (environmentally sensitive area) grants for keeping the place as wild as possible. You could, said MAFF, have a grant of up to £50 a hectare so long as you didn't let animals graze it between November and April. "There," said the men from Whitehall, "that'll stop people using this money to stock up with sheep and overgraze the precious moor."

They pretty soon heard about the Exmoor pony, as did the then Agriculture Secretary, John Gummer, who had his Easter holiday ruined by angry phone calls from Exmoor worthies. Many of these people still erroneously believe that Brussels was responsible for the problem, so I can only assume the ministry went in for one of its disingenuous blame-shifting propaganda exercises before hastily writing in an exemption for the ponies.

Anyway, the upshot was a new set of regulations heavily influenced by the ponies' champions and the National Park Authority, which is now finding it much easier to discourage people from mating Exmoors with wretched spotted stallions in order to produce little coloured riding ponies which will fetch £300 as against the £60-£100 they might get for a pure-bred Exmoor.

THE best news from the ponies' point of view is that they have been discovered (by at least two tribes of bureaucrats) to be the most ecologically correct mowing machines ever devised. They are now much in demand, and have been dispatched to graze the White Cliffs of Dover, stretches of Dorset moor and other fragile places with tough, invasive grasses and weeds.

With those peculiar teeth of theirs, the ponies will dig up bracken tubers to get at the starch, pull up thistles by the roots and munch away on who stole those. No-one expects them to have the best of such a target practice but, at least, a number of pure-bred Exmoor ponies to under 50.

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Unfortunately, the Ministry of



MARGOT NORMAN

Political loyalties take precedence when Washington singles are looking for a mate, says Tom Rhodes

## Love me, love my party ideology

Bill Clinton is said to have been so engrossed in the vagaries of his economic policy that he barely registered when James Carville, his principal political consultant, entered the Oval office and announced that he was engaged to Mary Matalin, the Republican strategist who had once described the president as "a philandering, pot-smoking draft dodger".

Their marriage was one of the strangest curiosities to have surfaced from the 1992 election trail and one which caused some consternation on both sides. Critics were baffled. How could Matalin, the former deputy manager for the Bush campaign, wed an ideologue who had been at the heart of Clinton's new Democratic order? Matalin, in suitably irreverent tones, claimed later: "We agree on Nafta, Ross Perot and David Duke." The rest of the time, she says, the couple hide sharp objects.

Such a match, in Washington at least, is regarded as highly unusual and very much the exception to the rule. For most of the staffers, lobbyists and other political animals who prowl the corridors of power on Capitol Hill, dating is as important a part of the political process as the next Bill to pass through the Senate or the House of Representatives.

Washington attracts a certain type of person who not

only affiliates to a political party but also see it as a way of life. Spending quality time with someone from the other camp, they claim, would lead to serious splits every time they ran into a homeless person or Hillary's face appeared on television. Some claim that the wrong relationship can be a career liability, particularly when they are

### DEMOCRAT & ATHEIST

SWM 51, 5'8", slim, monogamous, with youthful appearance. Non-smoker. Enjoys spring flowers, summer travel, autumn colors, winter skiing, classical music, movies, theater, massage. ISO attractive, youthful appearing, non-smoking SF/DF 39-50 with shared interests and comparable values, without dependents, who prefers minimal make-up, for best friend, lover, companion, wife.  
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A mating game in the corridors of power

trying to impress their work colleagues or are looking for promotion in the party. It is argued that political dating is especially prevalent in the younger generation of Washington women who want their partners to share a commitment to the issues that they strongly support. Politics can play a role even when the party does not. For a number of Democratic women, the man they are looking for has to be pro-choice on abortion and have the right answers on anything ranging from minority rights to the arts.

Although many do not consciously date according to party affiliation it nevertheless tends to happen that way.

Their lives are dictated by the machine. They go to Democratic or Republican fundraising events and parties, they spend all of their time mixing in the same circles and, quite simply, they do not meet people from the other side.

The confrontation between the two sides is so apparent that it is even being reflected in well-established dating agencies where, it seems, your position on health care reform is as important as your last check up.

At Georgetown Connection, for instance, an agency which bills itself as Washington's oldest dating service, the whole shape of "client placing" has recently been changed to reflect the nature of the clientele. Recent complaints have forced the agency's owner to rewrite the questionnaire so that clients must specify whether they are Democrat or Republican.

"The political factor in this town is vastly important," says Leora Hoffman, who has just bought Georgetown Connection. "It doesn't matter whether you are a lawyer or a staffer on Capitol Hill, your politics reflect your global view and that must affect the relationship that you are in."

A quarter of those who use her services stipulate that they must date someone of the same party or political leaning. For most of the rest it is an important consideration. Values, character and upbringing are all thought to be dictated



Mary Matalin and James Carville: a couple who crossed the political divide

or determined by the colour of your politics. "Your politics are your morals. It's what you are all about," says Jody Triandiflou, the legislative assistant to a Republican congresswoman. She only dates Republicans and would never even contemplate a Saturday night at the cinema in the company of a Democrat.

Carolyn Burkhardt, 29, a Democratic political consultant, was particularly intrigued by the looks of her recent date until he started arguing with her about Clinton's foreign policy. From now on she says she will only step out with Democrats.

Although single-party dating, as it is now called, is to be

found throughout Washington's largely white communities, it is at its most prevalent on Capitol Hill itself, where every two years create a sort of trench warfare almost unimaginable elsewhere.

Christopher Roosa, a Republican legislative director, says antagonism on the other side of the House would make it impossible for him to even approach them for an evening out.

"It is a constant fight and an argument each day of the year," he says. "The last thing you need is to take that sort of thing home with you every night, let alone go to bed with it."

## LEGACY TO LIFE



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Ezekiel 37: 14

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Trench fever grips Rwandan refugee camp... helping teatime hand for the disabled... sleeping pills without a hangover...

## Return of an old enemy

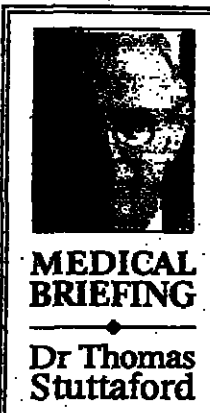
STORIES of deprivation and human degradation caused by war, famine and overcrowding have often been rendered more terrible by accounts of the diseases which flourish in these conditions. In earlier centuries jail or ship fever were some of the nastier hazards of being incarcerated in a prison or a ship's hold. Jail fever's equivalent in the First World War was trench fever, which affected thousands, left them ill for months, but fortunately was rarely fatal. Jail and ship fever are synonyms for epidemic typhus, which is now reported to have broken out in Rwandan refugee camps.

Trench fever and typhus are related in that they are rickettsial — acute infectious diseases caused by ticks, mites or body lice infected with parasitic microorganisms. Differentiating between the many rickettsial diseases, which include Rocky Mountain fever, epidemic typhus, Q fever and trench fever, is a medical student's nightmare.

The organisms which cause

these diseases in general display the characteristics of bacteria, but also have some similarities in behaviour with viruses. The life history of the organism is divided between an insect vector and an animal host. In the case of epidemic typhus and trench fever the hosts are humans and the vectors body lice.

The diseases all give rise to similar symptoms, albeit of varying severity. The initial presumptive diagnosis is made after consideration of the symptoms and the environment, to be confirmed when the results of



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttard

complex laboratory tests are known. But so grave are the illnesses that the treatment should be started before the diagnosis has been confirmed.

Given the living conditions of the Rwandan refugees, which must compare in terms of hygiene and overcrowding to those of a 19th-century jail, it was to be expected that an outbreak of typhus, jail fever, would occur in

those camps. Exactly 80 years after the start of the First World War, which saw the largest ever recorded epidemic

of trench fever, another rickettsial infection, epidemic typhus, is threatening to compound the horrors of war with the misery of disease.

The typhus organism is excreted in lice faeces. Later, when the patient is driven by the irritation of the bite to scratch it, they unknowingly enable the organism to penetrate the skin and introduce the infection. Prevention of the disease by eradication of the lice with insecticides is the primary method of control.

Typhus has an incubation period of seven to 14 days. The symptoms are fever, headache, a rash which appears on the fourth day, and later circulatory failure with subsequent heart and kidney failure, and the development of pneumonia or encephalitis.

Two antibiotics, chloramphenicol and the longer-acting tetracyclines, are effective, but they knock out the organism rather than destroy it. The patients with typhus also need intensive care as well as antibiotics, otherwise adults or older children who catch it face a 60 per cent chance of dying.

## Kettle advice

IN THE words of the old music-hall song "Everything Stops for Tea", tea drinking is an important part of daily routine. Its importance while working is dwarfed by the role it plays once the person retires; thereafter making a cup increasingly assumes an almost ritualistic role.

In older age groups, or for those who suffer from arthritic wrists, poor grip, a shake or poor sight, pouring a boiling kettle into a teapot without spilling or risking scalding becomes much more difficult. The ability to make a cup of tea is one of the criteria used to judge whether a person is fit to be discharged from hospital.

A research team from the rehabilitation unit at Southampton University has recently investigated the best type of kettle for those who have problems.

The results of their research, compressed into a best-buy table coupled with a discussion on the ease with which a person with a particular disability can pour, has been recently published in

the journal *Care of the Elderly*. Jug-style mini-kettles were best for those with poor grips or with only one hand, but were not easily managed by people with a tremor. The traditional kettle was handled reasonably well by everybody including those with a tremor, but was not managed quite as steadily as a jug-style kettle by patients with one hand.

The modern jug-style kettle did not score highly unless it was cordless and was only the first choice of those who had a minimally impaired grip or were one-handed.

## Sweet dreams

THE MISUSE of barbiturates led to doctors abandoning their prescription for the relief of insomnia. It now seems that similar action will be taken to restrict the availability of temazepam, one of the most widely used hypnotics.

Sleeping pills should never be

used regularly but are useful when travelling or for other occasions when a patient has to face a transient cause of sleeplessness. It is reasonable too for the chronic insomniac to take one from time to time to ensure an occasional good night's sleep.

Recently, two new sleeping pills have become available. The first to reach the market was Zimovane (zopiclone) which provides a good sleep for five or six hours. Sleep occasioned by Zimovane is as good in quality as that from barbiturates or benzodiazepines but has the advantage that it is reputed not to be habit forming, and to have fewer side effects and be less liable to give rise to a hangover, than the older drugs.

The other new sleeping pill introduced within the last couple of months is Stilnox (zolpidem).

It, too, is as effective as benzodiazepines and, like Zimovane, is said to have fewer residual ill-effects than the older drugs, to be free of addictive qualities and in the overwhelming majority of cases allows the patient to awake next day without morning drowsiness.

# Blood donors at birth

Umbilical cords could provide bone marrow for transplants in the future, reports Dr Abi Berger

A blood bank with a difference is due to open its doors in Bristol later this year. It will store blood from the umbilical cords of newborn babies which will be used to help children with diseases such as leukaemias, lymphomas and certain rare types of anaemias who sometimes require a bone marrow transplant if chemotherapy alone has failed.

The Umbilical Cord Blood Bank is being set up by Dr Jill Hows and Professor Ben Bradley at Southmead Hospital. It follows the discovery in the 1980s that the blood contained in a baby's umbilical cord immediately after birth is rich in the same cells — stem cells — that are found in normal bone marrow. A specialist at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, Edward Boyse, suggested that the stem cells needed to replenish a patient's bone marrow could be obtained from a newborn baby's umbilical cord, instead of from another person's bones.

It is a simple idea, which, according to Dr Hows, has several advantages over the present system of relying on bone marrow donation. While the search for a suitable donor may take many weeks, the Umbilical Cord Blood Bank will be able to offer immediate access to cord blood samples "off the shelf".

Hunting for individuals who have registered themselves as potential bone marrow donors can be time-consuming and sometimes fruitless. People change address, may be on holiday or may even be ill themselves just when their services are required. Blood samples taken at birth are frozen, stored and can be instantly retrieved.

The part of the umbilical cord which will be used would normally be thrown away with the placenta, so a "waste" product will be put to good use.

The donation of cord blood takes place only after a normal

delivery, and written consent for donation will be requested from the mother several weeks before the birth at one of her routine antenatal checks. As with any other blood or organ donation, it is essentially a gift. However, unlike bone marrow donation, which can mean up to a week off work for the donor (for a small operation under general anaesthesia), the procedure is completely harmless to both mother and baby.

Before she signs the consent form, the mother-to-be should be fully informed that she might wish to retrieve her own baby's donation of cord blood from the bank, in the unfortunate event that her own child developed leukaemia, or another disease, for which a bone marrow transplant is recommended.

The first successful transplant using umbilical cord blood in a human was reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1989, but so far too few have been performed to tell if the procedure is viable. The Bristol group's initial studies will attempt to compare the success rate of bone marrow transplants using cord blood donations, and transplants using conventional bone marrow.

A £60,000 stem cell laboratory opened earlier this year at Southmead Hospital to conduct research into the technique. It has been estimated that the shelf life of each 100 ml donation will be more than ten years.

Researchers are looking at ways to increase the number of stem cells in each sample using biological growth factors, so that in future cord blood transplants may be available to adults, too. A 100 ml donation is sufficient for a child, but not enough for an adult. Dr Hows and her

colleagues are also investigating the possibility that transplants using cord blood result in less severe graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) in the recipients — a condition which occurs if the transplanted marrow cells start to fight the body of their host, with occasionally fatal results. A baby's immune system is not as developed as an adult's, and therefore cord blood is less likely to provoke severe foreign reactions.

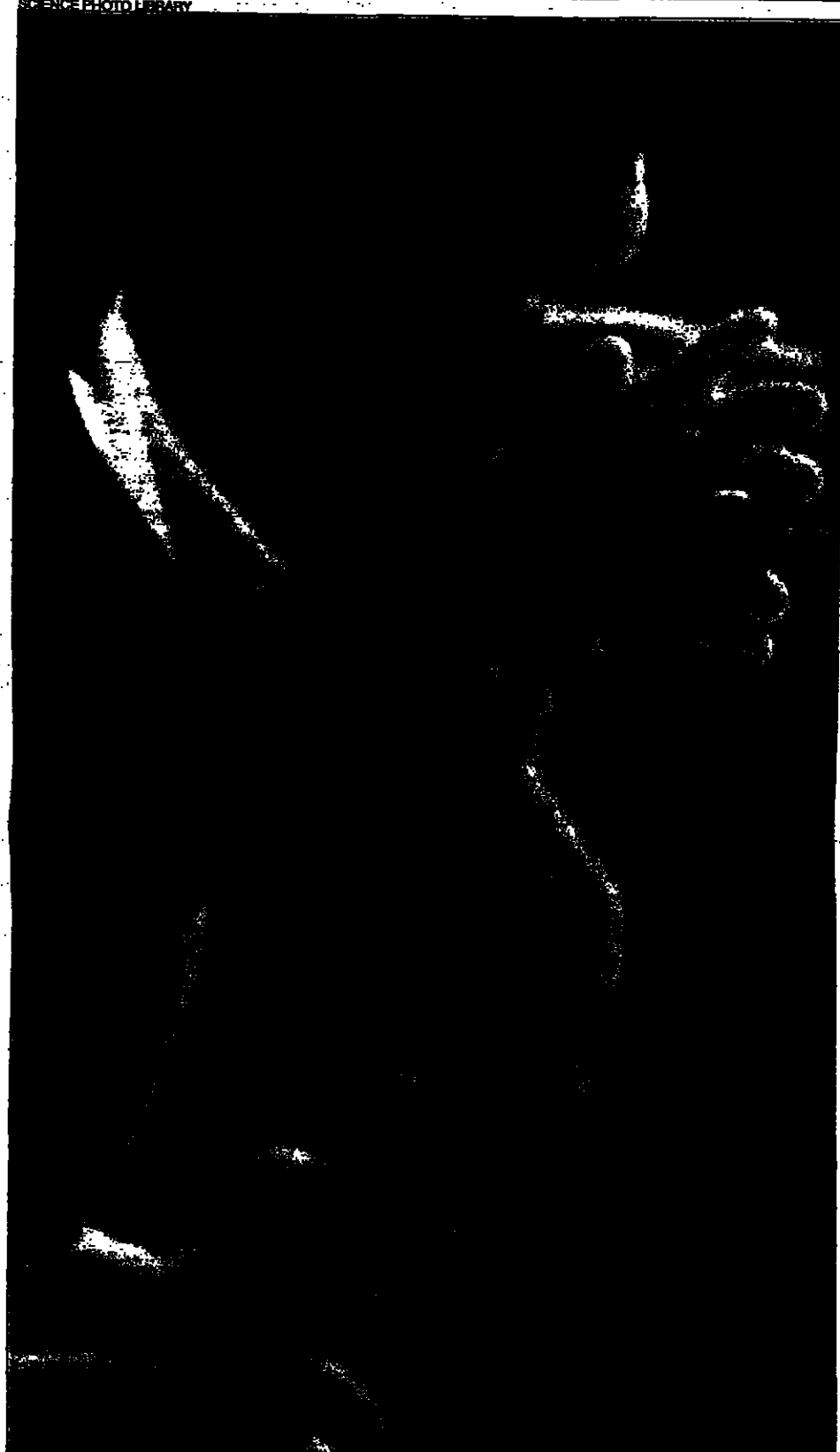
While this project holds great hope for the future, it is still highly experimental. And, as Dr Jackie Cornish, co-ordinator of the new Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at

Bristol Children's Hospital points out, some of the complications that used to be associated with using donors who are not related to the patient no longer pose such a threat. For example, using the latest advances in molecular biology, the haematologists (blood specialists) at Bristol use a system for removing the T-cells — which are known to cause GVHD — from the donated bone marrow. This process has all but eradicated the occurrence of severe GVHD in Bristol.

Dr Cornish also argues that the time factor is not as critical as some people believe: "Pa-

tients with acute leukaemia cannot be given a transplant until their disease is brought into remission anyway, and the time taken for this state to be reached provides an ideal window of opportunity for finding a well-matched donor. These days, using the existing system of donor panels, suitable matches are usually found within one month." She does agree, however, that the Umbilical Cord Blood Bank should expand the pool of donors.

With more than 6,000 babies delivered a year at Southmead Hospital, the idea is that the bank will build up a large collection of cord blood samples — the greater the choice, the more likely it will be that suitable matches will be found.



Blood samples taken at birth are frozen, stored and can be instantly retrieved

There is a town in America where happiness comes in the shape of small, torpedo-shaped pills. Wenatchee in Washington State was once known only for its apples. Now it has a new, more dubious, claim to fame: as the Prozac capital of the world.

Prozac is the most prescribed anti-depressant in America. But even by American standards Wenatchee's appetite for the drug is remarkable, thanks to the efforts of one local man, psychologist Dr James Goodwin.

Should all pessimists be taking Prozac every day?

## A doctor who wants to put happiness on prescription

Dr Goodwin has been called The Pied Piper of Prozac. He claims to have prescribed the drug, as a close equivalent, to every one of his 700 patients. A Vietnam veteran and former marine, he argues that every-

one is depressed. They just don't realise it until they take Prozac.

An *Everyman* film on BBC1 this Sunday at 10.40pm shows Dr Goodwin at work. Entitled as a visionary by clients and condemned as the leader of a cult by his critics, he is clearly neither. What you see instead is a big, bearded, soft-hearted man with one idea: that all our woes can be traced to a chemical imbalance in the brain.

This is an interesting thesis, unexplored in the film, which instead becomes sidetracked by a pointless confrontation between Dr Goodwin and the Prozac Survivors Support Group who claim the drug can cause personality changes and violent behaviour.

However, one of Dr Goodwin's critics, psychiatrist Dr Peter Breggin, takes a different and more interesting stand, arguing against the widespread prescribing of anti-depressants on moral grounds. He wants suffering reinstated as an acceptable and necessary fact of life.

Dr Goodwin sees Prozac differently: one of a new class of drugs heralding a post-depression age. "I became a believer after seeing what Prozac did to me. For the first time in my life I went 'Whoa! Is this the way life really is?'"

So threatened do Dr Goodwin's professional colleagues feel by his behaviour that the Washington State Board of Psychology is investigating him on charges of incompetence and unethical behaviour on the grounds that he diagnoses depression within minutes of meeting his patients and recommends the same drug and therapy for everyone.

Psychiatrists fear that if anti-depressants are handed out too freely, doctors will be classed with barmen pouring whiskies or dealers selling lines of cocaine. However, there is a difference between Prozac and the so-called recreational drugs of alcohol and cocaine: Prozac does not provide pleasure but restores the capacity for pleasure.

Dr Peter Kramer described the drug in his bestseller, *Listening to Prozac*, as a "mood brightener", a medicine that can brighten the episodically down moods of those who are not clinically depressed without causing euphoria or the side effects associated with drugs such as cocaine and amphetamines.

Dr Kramer asked why a person born with too little "joy juice", but who falls short of being clinically depressed, should not be given more.

It is extremely difficult to get psychiatrists to take this question seriously. To them it is tantamount to drug pushing. They cling to their clinical definition of depression — loss of appetite, difficulty sleeping — and maintain it is only ethical for doctors to treat the genuinely ill.

Yet doctors already provide some services to those who are not ill — cosmetic surgery, for instance. Nor do they object to the life-long prescribing of anti-depressants for those who — in their judgment — need them. The analogy is with insulin for diabetes: a chemical imbalance — whether in the brain or the pancreas — deserves correction. The question is what level of imbalance

deserves correction. When does the proper treatment of illness become improper interference with the human condition?

Dr Goodwin argues that if we value optimism over pessimism, activity over passivity and happiness over sadness — as we do — then people born with too little "joy juice" should be entitled to ask for more. The onus is now on psychiatrists — and others — who disagree to say why they should be denied.

JEREMY LAURANCE



The Pied Piper of Prozac: Dr James Goodwin

## Eczema Relieved

If you suffer from eczema, you should know about a new book *The Complete Eczema Handbook*. This book contains all the latest up to date information on eczema problems and how to handle them, in particular, tips on preventing and controlling outbreaks. There are many different types of eczema, even though the symptoms can be identical such as red spots, skin dryness, scaling, soreness, frequent irritation or itching of the affected areas and possibly blisters. What's more, one kind of eczema may change over time to a different one. *The Complete Eczema Handbook* identifies the different types of eczema, shows how the risk from everyday items such as cosmetics, clothing and jewelry can be minimised and what can be done about the domestic causes such as household mite, household cleaning products and air pollution. There are also simple-to-use methods

for identifying dietary causes of eczema as well as special ways to control stress induced outbreaks. Alternative therapies such as homeopathy, acupuncture, osteopathy, naturopathy, hypnosis and hypnotherapy are also covered, together with useful contact addresses. Many people are putting up with troublesome eczema symptoms because they are unaware of new treatments and the welcome relief that is now available.

Order *The Complete Eczema Handbook* now, direct from the publisher for only £9.95 which includes postage and packaging. Simply send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque or Visa/Access with exp. date) to Carnell plc, Dept. Alresford, nr. Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, allowing up to 14 days for delivery. You can return the book at any time for a full refund if not satisfied.



**Akzo Nobel N.V.** (formerly Akzo N.V.)  
Registered Office at Arnhem, the Netherlands  
Report for the 1st half of 1994\*

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

Millions of guilders (NLG)	January-June 1994	1993 **
Net sales	11,341	10,584
Operating costs	(10,329)	(9,866)
Operating income	1,012	718
Financing charges	(149)	(139)
Operating income less financing charges	863	579
Taxes	(251)	(145)
Earnings of consolidated companies from normal operations, after taxes	612	434
Earnings from nonconsolidated companies	46	45
Extraordinary items	(75)	(41)
Earnings before minority interest	583	438
Minority interest	(14)	(5)
Net income	569	433
Net income per share, in NLG	8.01	6.10
Ditto, before extraordinary items	9.07	6.67
Common stock, in thousands of shares	71,028	71,023 ***

### SALES AND OPERATING INCOME BY GROUP

Millions of guilders		Operating Income	
Net sales	January-June 1994    1993 **	January-June 1994    1993 **	
Chemicals	4,082    3,794	Chemicals	372    241
Coatings	3,492    3,314	Coatings	285    198
Pharma	1,925    1,767	Pharma	330    280
Fibers	1,849    1,700	Fibers	58    21
Other activities and intercompany deliveries	(7)    9	Other activities and nonallocated items	(33)    (22)
Total	11,341    10,584	Total	1,012    718

\* The data included in this report are unaudited.  
\*\* For the first half of 1993 pro forma Akzo Nobel figures are stated, as a comparison with the pre-merger Akzo results is not meaningful. For the

assumptions on which these figures are based, reference is made to the complete report (see below).  
\*\*\* At December 31, 1993

**Sales and income**  
In the second quarter of 1994, Akzo Nobel continued to outperform the previous year, with NLG 288 million net income against NLG 217 million (pro forma) in 1993.

Net income before extraordinary items rose by 48% to NLG 563 million. Operating income was up NLG 186 million, or 52%, to NLG 547 million, due to higher sales volume and the effects of cost reduction programs.

Second-quarter 1994 sales of NLG 5.6 billion, 5% higher than last year, brought the six-month figure to NLG 11.3 billion, up 7% from the corresponding period of 1993. Of this increase, 6% is attributable to higher volume and some 1% to higher average selling prices. The balance of acquisitions and divestments as well as the effect of exchange rate changes was practically nil.

In the first half of 1994, NLG 569 million net income was realized, exceeding last year's NLG 433 million by 31%.

Akzo Nobel's net income per share for the first half of 1994 amounted to NLG 8.01, against a pro forma figure of NLG 6.10 for the same period of 1993. The NLG 8.01 also compares favorably with Akzo's pre-merger NLG 6.73 for the first half of 1993 (before extraordinary items: NLG 9.07, versus NLG 7.63).

**Outlook**  
The sales volume increase in Europe in the first half year reflects that the recession in this region is bottoming out and that some recovery of the economy is noticeable. Economic growth in the United States continues. Under these circumstances, we expect that Akzo Nobel's results in the second half of 1994 will compare favorably with the corresponding period of 1993.

Arnhem, August 3, 1994

The Board of Management

Copies of the complete report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents: Barclays Bank PLC, BGS Depository Services, 168 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3HP and Midland Securities Service, Paying Agency Section, 5th floor Mariner House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4DA. The report for the 3rd quarter of 1994 will be published on November 2.



## Janet Daley



**■ If ordinary bad behaviour is not controlled in young boys, it will spiral out of control**

While you are still shaking your head over that 14-year-old delinquent who ran amok in Centre Parcs, let me ask you a question. Why is it that you and I can see instantly what an idiotic idea it was to think of transplanting this boy to an idyllic, family holiday village would do any good? Perhaps because we have either raised, or at least been acquainted with, real children. For even if those children did not have the social or psychological disadvantages of the boy whom Essex social services were "treating", our experience is still relevant.

The radical idea that I wish to propose is that a mundane truth known to every sensible parent might be central to the problem of anti-social youths. That is, that bad—even very bad—behaviour is not abnormal in children. To have overseen the upbringing of any child, however normal and secure his family life, is a pretty clear continuum between the casually destructive aggression of many common-garden four-year-olds and the pathological wildness of the Centre Parcs boy.

The next obvious question is: why was the idiosyncrasy of this "treatment"—not obvious to the caring experts who prescribed it? Perhaps because they are persuaded that youth crime is always committed for a reason, that deprivation or social envy or alienation explains why children go wrong. And therefore, if you remedy the causes of the delinquency, you should be able to cure it—because the child will soon see the point of proper conduct. This makes the wrong-headed assumption that these children are in control of their actions and that they can be brought to a rational decision to behave differently.

When non-experts condemn what they see as the indulgent treatment of young offenders, it is not out of a mindless lust for punishment. It is because most of them are parents who think that they see in these infamous case histories something that they can recognise. They are not surprised, for a start, that this problem arises almost exclusively with boys. Not that there are no delinquent girls—police report more instances of knife-carrying female gangs than ever before—but there is something about the cases of the Centre Parcs boy and the Rat Boy which conform to a characteristically male behaviour pattern.

What struck a chord with me was the frenetic quality of their activity. The Centre Parcs boy seems to have ducked his supervision almost immediately and gone on an instant rampage of burglary through nine chalets. This has to have less to do with calculated gain than

with uncontrollable impulse. A clever young professional thief would have been more careful to cover his tracks and give his activities a less obvious pattern. The Rat Boy is a compulsive absconder, slipping frenetically from one hideaway to another with unnecessary bravado.

For all the world, they remind me of any number of little boys I have known whose waking hours were spent in frenzied, demonic exertion to the exhausted despair of their parents. Having had only daughters, my experience of this was limited to the boys I encountered at the various playgrounds, nurseries and primary schools to which the odyssey of child-rearing took me. At virtually all of these places—in every class, at every children's party—there was at least one little boy who was a terror to his peers and a problem for the adults.

Hyperactive and wantonly destructive, apparently living only to smash and grab, such little boys dog the daily life of every primary teacher. They are hell to deal with, but their behaviour falls within the range of the normal. That is, they are not monsters, nor are they in the technical sense—mentally disturbed.

What accounts for this very common strain of infantile mischief? A fant male miscreant is a subject for research: almost certainly it is connected to physiology. Boy babies are more likely than girls to be born with immature nervous systems, which cause them to cry more and sleep less than girl babies.

Girls mature and become socialised earlier than boys. While an exclusively female group of pre-school children will be quite capable of organising itself into orderly and fair-minded play, perfectly normal seven-year-old males will run riot if not supervised. Most of these boys become tractable eventually, provided they are given a great deal of supervision and treated with consistent firmness. Because their behaviour is out of their own control, they need structure and constraint more than most children.

The kind of systematic laxness which is a feature of permissive regimes at school or at home is death to them. Until they can grow into self-control, they must be restrained by confident grown-ups. If they are not, they will become locked into more and more desperate, attention-seeking volatility.

The present epidemic of notorious young delinquents does not constitute some new, unprecedented social phenomenon. They are simply the result of a society which has decided to abdicate its responsibilities to the immature.

The Tories have sold their souls to market forces, and now want to sell the nation's, says David Selbourne

## Citizens must protect the civic order

Yesterday's report in *The Times* suggesting that the Conservative Party is to place civic values and institutions at the centre of its policy concerns is welcome, as is Tony Blair's recent hint of a new Labour doctrine of parental responsibility in education. But there is little likelihood of Labour being transformed into a genuinely civic party. It still sees duty primarily as that which the State owes to its dependants, not that which the citizen owes to himself, his fellows and the civic order.

However, in a climate of public anxiety about the nation's civic condition, the Conservatives' difficulties are greater. For blow by blow, the Government has in recent years been striking at the very heart of British civic life. Its piecemeal "privatisation" and "marketisation" of national civic institutions has involved putting out to tender some of the principal obligations of the civic order to its citizens. The very institutions which the government has a duty to defend, which give the public its sense of identity and society's civic coherence, are being gradually cast to the winds of "market forces". To disable their civic ethos is to disable the civic order itself.

Moreover, the absence of a written constitution imposes a duty upon those who rule us to take special care with the integrity of the vulnerable institutions of the civic order, the well-being of which rests upon the

common upholding of the civic bond.

Already partly "privatised" and "marketised" or else the subject of further anti-civic plans to that end are the Royal Mail, the prison service, the health service, Customs and Excise, the BBC, the schools inspectorate, the Inland Revenue, the national air traffic control agency and many other civic agencies. A Home Office review—which will make recommendations, without public debate, to the Home Secretary next January—is discussing proposals to "hive off" to sundry agencies and private security firms forensic work, the summoning of defendants, executing warrants, custodial functions, criminal records, licensing functions, deportations, policing of public events and the provision of crime-prevention advice. This is to threaten the rule of law itself.

For it is to the civic order acting through its instruments, the State and the law, and not to market-winners, that the citizen owes his duty. That such assaults on the civic order should be driven by no higher

purpose than the reduction of taxes adds civic insult to civic injury.

We pay our taxes in large part so that precisely these institutions can be protected and maintained in the interests of all: so that private interest shall not govern the public weal; so that a line can be drawn, and preserved, between the public and the private domains.

Now we learn that support services, training, maintenance and even the armed forces' ammunition stores are to be "hived off". It is ethically unacceptable that the physical liberty of our fellow-citizens has already come to be placed, in some prisons, in the charge of private profit-making organisations, towards which the individual owes no civic duty whatever. Shall the weapons by which the civic order must defend its citizenry next be placed in the custody of private firms? And nuclear weapons also? Or if not, where is the line to be drawn, upon what criteria, subject to what public scrutiny, and when?

It is remarkable that backbench

Tories should recently have been so quick to register their anxiety about the relationship between Church and State—an issue of major civic importance—while so few of them have had the moral and political courage openly to oppose the headlong vandalism now in train.

The reason is, perhaps, that many in the Conservative Party have made a Faustian pact with Friedmanism, and cannot turn back. Other Tories, those who remain silent while painfully aware of the harms being done to the nation, have stood by while civic morality itself has been progressively discredited.

In utilitarian terms, introducing self-managing agencies, internal markets and the spirit of competition into national civic institutions may be defensible, but at great moral cost. How much is a commercialised "delivery system in health care" worth, against the demoralisation of doctors and nurses? What price "producer choice" in the BBC, when the spokesmen of a once-great public institution speak of broadcasting as an "industry", and listeners or viewers as "consumers"?

The nation, in its civic self, is at a crossroads. It is well that it should be so. Apologists have tried to argue that the "better services" obtained by the marketisation of public and civic institutions outweigh the deeper loss. I believe that a Waterloo beckons.

The true citizen knows that running a prison is not "the same as running a hotel", as a Faustian Tory marketer has asserted; that beggars are not merely "inconvenient" or "offensive"; and that caring and "service-delivery" are not the same thing. Indeed, had the majority of the people been educated to an understanding of the duties of the civic order to its citizens—chief of which is to preserve itself in the interests of all—the Government might be facing an insurrection. For in my judgment the citizen is duty bound to help prevent the dissolution of the civic order by all means in his power.

I do not believe you can just wrench the Church of England away from its history, its tradition, just like that," declared the Bishop of London the other day. No more can the integrity of other institutions of the civic order be "wrenched away" from the citizen body "just like that". In a nation with a latent civic spirit as profound as Britain's, only a national civic party which might arouse such spirit is lacking.

## A church of little tyrants

History has given the Church of England a near-monopoly of the ancient churchyards. "The curfew tolls the knell of parting day, / The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea, / The ploughman homeward plods his weary way, / And leaves the world to mum and dad and me," as Thomas Gray might have written in his "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard". This monopoly makes the regulations imposed by local Anglican vicars and consistory courts a matter of more than pure denominational interest.

The case which has arisen in Lancashire is a little local scandal. Like a little gas leak, a little scandal should be attended to, in case it ends with a big explosion. Frederick Brown died at the age of 83 and was buried at Freckleton. The inscription his family wanted on his tombstone was: "In loving memory of Frederick Martin Brown who died on 28 December, 1992. A devoted, much loved husband, dad and granddad." These words are the subject of the dispute.

The Reverend Stephen Brian has not always been a stickler about the phrases used on tombstones. Unfortunately, three years ago he read an Anglican pamphlet called *The Churchyard Handbook*. Before 1991 he had not even been aware of this document, and had happily allowed tombstones to contain dreaded words such as "dad" or "granddad". He had even allowed a "mum" or two to creep in. The *Churchyard Handbook* is austere. "An epitaph is a public document and not a cosy one at that. Nicknames or pet names, 'mum', 'dad', 'Ginger', inscribed in stone would carry overtones of the dog cemetery unsuitable for the resting place of Christian men or women." That condescending reference to the "dog cemetery" is strangely supercilious, but also inaccurate. I have never known a dog to be called "mum" or "dad", although I have known cats to be called "Ginger". The *Churchyard Handbook* has a disagreeable tone of sanctimoniousness.

Unfortunately the vicar thought it his duty to enforce these petty rules, which deny families the right to refer to people they love in the terms they actually used when they were alive. He would not let the Browns refer to their father as their "dad" or their grandfather as their "granddad". Although for three years he had himself seen nothing wrong with the practice, he was converted by the adulated propriety of the *Churchyard Handbook*. The family appealed to the consistory court. The chancellor, John Bullimore and his registrar, Tom Hoyle, turned up in their wigs, listened to the argument and inspected the churchyard.

This week's fuss over the correct language for a gravestone is another symptom of the national plague of busybodydom



William Rees-Mogg

The chancellor decided in favour of the vicar. He used the "thin end of the wedge" argument. I've met that argument on dozens of committees. In my experience it is almost invariably used to defend injustice, to refuse sympathy or to obstruct reform. Mr Bullimore was terrified by the language that might infiltrate our churchyards if "dad" and "granddad" were permitted. "If the argument was that one needed to use words used by the family it would be impossible to use 'Dad' or 'Grandad' without also allowing words such as 'Mum', 'Mam', 'Da', 'Grandpa' or 'Nan'." Now what can be the future of a country in which, and I am reliably assured, such dangerous words as "Mam" or "Da" are among the very first words uttered by innocent babies?

One might think, might one not, as our legal friends say, that this farce had been carried far enough, even for a people as congenitally absurd as the English? If so, one would have reckoned without my dear old friend Bill Westwood, the Bishop of Peterborough, who served with me for

four years on the Broadcasting Standards Council. The council then had to concern itself with a different sort of unacceptable language.

The bishop popped up, as he sometimes does, on *The World at One*. No harm in that, you might think, as our legal friends also say. He had an alternative to the "dog" cemetery which had arisen in the mind of the author of the *Churchyard Handbook*. "I am very sorry for the Browns. Plainly they may well feel that they can go to a corporation cemetery, which might suit them better." Bill Westwood himself really does know better than that. A grieving family come to the Church of England, wanting to record their love for their grandfather in their own language. A Church of

England bishop refers them around the corner to the "corporation cemetery".

Anyone who reads the Gospels forms a view of the character of Jesus. Again and again, Jesus puts human sympathy ahead of petty, or even important, regulations. His treatment of the woman of Samaria, his statement that the Sabbath is made for man, "not man for the Sabbath", his injunction to let little children come to him, his criticism of the Pharisees—all speak of someone who put love first and petty regulations a long way behind. The language that Chancellor Bullimore finds so deplorable—"dad", "granddad", "mum", "mam", "da", "grandpa" or "nan"—is the language of childhood, but also the language of love. The suggestion that Jesus would want us to run churchyards so as to exclude this simple but hallowed language is grotesque. Such a religion has nothing to do with Christianity, but everything to do with provincial respectability.

This old-fashioned propriety does not reflect the modern Church of

England, though it does remind me of the Church of England as it was when I was a child. That was a lace-curtain church, in which respectability was often given undue weight. This patronising attitude has much more to do with the current mood of nosy-parkerism in Britain, with regulators of all kinds, statutory and self-appointed, claiming the right to interfere with other people's conduct for do-gooding or "correctness" reasons of one sort or another. Britain is becoming like a second-rate Edwardian public school, where the prefects rebuke their juniors for having the wrong buttons of their waistcoats unfastened.

One can hardly listen to a news bulletin or open a newspaper without learning of some new proposal to interfere in our lives. In the past two days, there has been the suggestion that we would all be finer if we returned to the wartime diet of potatoes with very little butter, cheese, meat, chocolate or sugar. As that insipid "diet" gave me and the majority of my adolescent contemporaries acute acne, of a kind fortunately now rare, I would not recommend it as a recipe for health. The Government is also proposing to introduce a "smart" driving licence, on the European Community model, complete with the driver's photograph. No doubt much of this petty regulation is irritating rather than seriously damaging, but the right to intervene is being claimed by more and more authorities, and when they do have a legal right they use it in increasingly arbitrary ways.

This infection of busybodydom has become a plague. It makes the Church of England behave with supercilious pomposity to a grieving family. There is no shortage of similar well-intentioned bossiness in the Catholic Church to which I belong. The environmentalists are notorious for their desire to mind their neighbour's business; so are all the support groups, for women, for gays, for ethnic groups. The very good these groups do often seems to impel them to excessive interference. The Conservatives do it; in local government the Liberals do it when they have a chance; Labour actually believes in doing it; the European Community exists to do it.

We are bound by these chains and must break out of them. To return to Gray's Country Churchyard, what we need is to encourage

Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast, The little tyrant of his fields withstood.

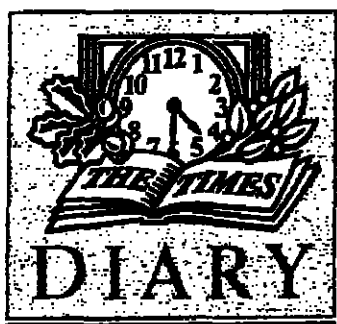
There are far too many little tyrants in modern Britain, and not enough village Hampdens.

## Too sheepish

LORD HOWE of Aberavon is clearly determined to hang on to his "dead sheep" reputation. The great man has given specific instructions that *Conflict of Interest*, his eagerly awaited exposé of life in the Thatcher Governments, should not be launched during the Conservative Party conference.

According to publishers Macmillan, Howe has ordered on "moral" grounds that the book should not appear until the week afterwards—so selflessly depriving himself of those lucrative conference book-signing sessions so beloved of the likes of the Lords Lawson, Tebbit and Parkinson. "He didn't want to take the limelight," says Tania Stobbs, the book's editor.

Baroness Thatcher, of course, started out with similar good intentions last year—until the *Daily Mirror's* splashing of supposed extracts overshadowed the Blackpool conference. But Howe's opus is unlikely to cause the same stir. "It's a detailed analysis of the workings of government," says Stobbs. Seeing sales slipping before her eyes, she hastily adds: "But it will shed a different light on the



end of the Thatcher Government—so it will embarrass her." Maverick Tory MP Teresa Gorman, who profitably sprinkled copies of her anti-Maastricht book *The Bastards* around last year's conference, is unimpressed. "I can't believe Geoffrey Howe's memoirs could overshadow anything. Tell him to be a bit of a bastard."

### Cracking up

THE last-minute intervention of the National Gallery of Scotland has not endeared it to quite all admirers of *The Three Graces*. A

number are seriously concerned that Canova's delicate forms will now spend far too much time hurtling up and down the A1.

Cyril Humphris, the London sculpture dealer, would rather see the piece go to the Getty Museum than see it shuffling between the Scottish gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum. "Marble by its very nature is fragile, and flaws are intrinsic to the stone. I know that a number of people, especially in the trade, would be reconsidering their donations towards its purchase if it were to be moved about."

Anthony Radcliffe, who until four years ago was curator of sculpture at the V&A, is inclined to agree. "The statue already has a shake in it, a small crack. It could be moved, but only with great care. It really should be back in the temple at Woburn, which was built to house it."

### Cold coming

THE RED ARMY is marching on Edinburgh to storm the festival. But there are problems with its seven-and-a-half-hour performance of a Greek play in Russian. The only theatre thought suitable for *The Orestes* is Edinburgh's ice-rink, and it is not melting in time. "It was

fine when the weather was warm, but the temperature has dropped," explains a Festival spokesman. "We are just crossing our fingers, hoping that it will melt before the first night. It isn't a slushy play at all."

### Jackets off

THERE are signs of a disturbing trend in literary circles: vulgar book covers designed to shock the squeamish reader. Two such covers, both on literary works of a thoroughly academic nature, have



just been brought to my attention. The first decorates the latest political thesis from Professor Ben Fimlott, Harold Wilson's biographer. The cover of *Frustrate their Knavish Tricks: Writings on Biography, History and Politics* is adorned by a cartoon based on the Hieronymus Bosch painting *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, featuring well-known politicians and royalty in various states of nudity and orgiastic entanglement.

The second is more shocking still. A naked portrait of the vituperative art critic Brian Sewell as a ghoul sitting on the bosom of a prostrate lady covers *The Review that Caused the Rumpus*, a collection of his articles. "It's based on Henry Fuseli's picture *The Nightmare*," says the first picture that came to mind," explains Sewell.

Fimlott too is quick to justify his cover, which has John Major in underpants, a naked Norman Lamont and Baroness Thatcher devouring Sir Edward Heath. "The hellish, bizarre and colourful world of the political scene is there for all to see."

Political correctness has reached new heights in the BBC. Yesterday's menu at the waitress-service restaurant listed Spotted Richard among its puddings. "We've been told



we can't use the 'd' word anymore," explains a functionary.

### And all that

YOU just can't keep a good revisionist historian down. Fresh from turning over just about everyone in his book *Eminent Churchillians*, Andrew Roberts has turned his attentions to fellow old Cramleighan, Julia Ormond. Ormond (right) is of course the actress who has just landed the part of Guinevere in Richard Gere's £40 million film about King Arthur.



Ormond, says Roberts, is continuing a Cranleigh theatrical tradition which began with Michael Redgrave (left), who directed plays there during his stint at the Surrey school as a modern languages teacher in the 1930s.

As for Ormond, Roberts has particularly fond memories of her performance as Eliza Doolittle in a sixth-form production of *My Fair Lady*. But even that happy memory is being clouded by revisionism. "I think she may have been more voluptuous then."

P.H.S





## AN OPEN MIND

The Tory party needs to understand how far it has fallen

The Times has had a long and mostly friendly relationship with *The Daily Telegraph* over the years. We spar from time to time. We are happy to welcome its former readers to us in increasing numbers. But it is rare for either of us to devote leading articles to the activities of the other.

Yesterday was an unusual day. The writer of the first *Telegraph* leader began by referring to an interview with the German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, in which Rupert Murdoch, chairman of the company which owns *The Times*, uttered the allegedly dramatic words: "I could even imagine supporting the British Labour leader, Tony Blair." The leading article then drew attention to the fact that one of the newspapers owned by the News International company already had expressed "an overtly Labour posture". It also reminded its readers of the apparently shocking statement by the editor of *The Times* (who, for the sake of consistency, must refer to himself in the third person in this column) that he too could envisage deciding that Labour rather than the Conservatives would be the better choice to govern Britain.

It may as well be recorded now that the editor of *The Times* did not say that Mr Blair would be the better prime minister or was even likely to get the support of *The Times* at the next election. Indeed, as *The Independent*, a more honest rival on this occasion, took the trouble to ascertain, his position was that "I can imagine supporting Tony Blair: whether I will is another matter."

Such open-mindedness — from the editor of a newspaper which had an open mind long before *The Daily Telegraph* was even thought of — was too much for a newspaper which, if we were to use its own form of words, we would call "one of Conrad Black's British organs". Even more disreputable, in the mind of the *Telegraph* writer, was the

editor of *The Times*' suggestion that he had been "impressed by the number of readers' letters expressing disillusionment with this Government". *The Daily Telegraph*, its readers were reassured, is a newspaper which can be virtually guaranteed to corral them to vote Conservative. To listen, instead, with an open mind is described as "playing the field" and as a "frankly cynical example" which the Tories (including, presumably, *The Daily Telegraph*) "will be fervently hoping that no other newspaper group follows".

As regular *Times* readers know well and as hundreds of thousands of new readers are now discovering, we try to lead opinion rather than follow it. More than a decade ago we were supporting many of Mrs Thatcher's programmes against the prevailing wisdom of the mass of the Conservative party and its massed allies in the media. Last year *The Times* was raising questions about Maastricht and about Mr Major's abilities as Prime Minister for months before *The Daily Telegraph* dared to reach the same positions. We argued against the Exchange Rate Mechanism when the same mass Tory opinion, including Mr Black's organ, was firmly for it.

Our strength in advancing those debates came, as it has always come, in no small way from our closeness to our readers, not all of whom will ever agree with us but many of whom, through their letters on this page and in other ways, play a close part in our counsels. The Conservative party has lost direction: meanwhile its house journal has closed its mind and meandered mournfully behind it. *The Daily Telegraph* today is a gentle lumbering giant, whose strength is slowly failing as its senses grow dim. It is our strong hope that, by the time of the next election, we will not find the Conservative Party in the same sad condition.

## FORWARD TO CIVIC SENSE

Early plans for a successful speech in Bournemouth

The main theme of John Major's autumn counter-offensive against Tony Blair has been unveiled much earlier than expected. The Prime Minister doubtless wishes to avoid a repetition of his disastrous *Back to Basics* campaign which was poorly planned and miserably executed. He must also realise how much depends on his performance at this year's Conservative Party conference. Mr Major's speech will be a measure of the Tories' readiness to go into battle against a modernised Labour Party.

Downing Street has already labelled this year's campaign "Back to Civics". That is a useful enough catchphrase for Mr Major's own advisers. It correctly identifies the theme of civic loyalty and community identity as one that the Conservatives should make their own. It also pays well-deserved tribute to the impressive work on civic politics published this year by David Willets, MP for Havant, and by the political philosopher David Selbourne. But the Prime Minister must move beyond catchphrases if he is to recover the ground which he has lost in the last two years. "Civics" is a word that will make little impact upon the electorate. "Back" carries alarming echoes of last year's ill-judged nostalgia, which succeeded only in discrediting existing government policy by association. What the Conservative Party needs is not slogans but a dynamic statement of political principle.

First, Mr Major must make clear that his message is forward-looking rather than longingly retrospective. Harking back is rarely an effective political strategy: good values are not always old values. The Prime Minister must emphasise that he expects Britons to set high standards for future generations rather than to follow slavishly those

set by the last. He must make his campaign demanding rather than mean-spirited.

Secondly, Mr Major must respond to the points made by David Selbourne on the page opposite. He must explain that there is no necessary conflict between civic cohesion and policies which bring market disciplines to public services. He could argue soundly that communities have been strengthened rather than weakened in the last decade by allowing schools to opt out of town hall control, by giving GPs the ability to respond more quickly to their patients' needs, by extending share ownership, and by improving local services through compulsory tendering.

Thirdly, he must distinguish his own approach from Labour's message. Since Mr Blair's policies are still developing, this will not be a straightforward task. But the Prime Minister can legitimately ask of the new Opposition leader what he actually means by "community". For all Mr Blair's use of Tory language, Labour's instincts are still essentially statist; the party is still more likely to support producer interest groups in the public sector than local life platoons. Mr Blair's belief in devolution is admirable, but seems to express itself increasingly in a taste for constitutional tinkering. Much has been made of the Conservatives' disrespect for civic institutions and creation of new bureaucracy. But what is to be made of Labour's apparent belief that a new tier of regional assemblies is the best way to bolster local identity; that the House of Lords should be completely overhauled; and that the problems of Ulster will be solved by Irish unity? In the emerging debate on civic values and institutions, Mr Major may have less to fear than he supposes.

## GRACELESS TUG-OF-WAR

Why a Canova would be fine for California

The *Three Graces* have enjoyed more hair-breadth reprieves than have any heroines of the silent cinema. The latest is for another three months — time for the heritage lobby to match the £7.6 million offered by the Getty Museum. Thus Stephen Dorrell, the new National Heritage Secretary, joins the row of ministers who have made asses of themselves by trying to dance with the Muses without paying the piper.

Canova's work provokes differing opinions, as should any sculpture worth its marble. It has been described as the masterpiece of the neo-classical movement and, with more than a little exaggeration, as the most important sculpture in Britain. The less susceptible see the *Three Graces* as finely carved but smirking maidens. There may be more agreement for declaring that this is the finest sculpture commissioned by an Englishman on the grand tour and then made the centrepiece of a sculpture gallery in his state home.

It is surely absurd to pretend that the romantic maidens form an essential bequest to posterity from the national heritage. Although commissioned for Woburn, they are only a replica of the slightly larger version, originally ordered by Napoleon's consort, the Empress Josephine, and now in the Hermitage in St Petersburg.

If retained in Britain, the *Three Graces* will not gratify art historians by going back to their specially built gallery, which has since become the canteen for tourists to Woburn Abbey. They will continue between

the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh, which have secured pledges of £5.8 million still £1.8 million short of the Getty offer. There are already at least ten other examples of Canova's work on public display in Britain, including at the V&A *A Sleeping Nymph*, which is quite as buxomly erotic as the pubescent Muses.

There is no evidence of overwhelming national interest in the work of Canova. When the *Three Graces* went on show in the V&A in 1990, the public appeal to save them for the nation raised an unimpressive £80,000. The price offered by the Getty Museum is generous. Some would call it ridiculous. But every time Getty comes near to winning its prize, the cowardly politicians find another excuse to shift the deadline.

Art should be the property of all art-lovers, and it increases its potency by being spread around. Almost all national heritage was acquired by empire, dealers, collectors and pillage. The treasures of the neo-classical movement should belong to Californians as much as to tourists at Woburn or visitors to the V&A. Many Britons will enjoy the *Three Graces* at Getty's magnificent museum, certainly more than have seen the girls for their past ten years' locked in a security warehouse. The *Three Graces* should be off to brighten the sunshine of Malibu. And the politicians should stop making a monkey out of our export licence system and threatening London's position as the international art market.

## Defining policy choices for the health of the nation

From the Chairman, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District Health Authority

Sir, As someone who has only been involved with the health service since the reforms and, I hope, retaining some scientific objectivity from my training, I should like to comment on the correspondence (July 29; August 4, 5, 8) arising from the Healthcare 2000 initiative.

In terms of its size alone the NHS organisation would be difficult to manage if its component parts were all pulling in the same direction. In fact, one can identify at least five highly organised bodies within the service, each with its own agenda and objectives. In no particular order, these are the unisoned workforce, the consultants, the GPs, the nurses and the managers.

Many clinicians have no desire to be managed or to manage. Much more serious, they demand a degree of independence under the umbrella of "clinical freedom" which makes it difficult to implement guidelines or protocols for good practice, even when recommended by their Royal Colleges. I can think of no other major industry which has so little control over the providers of its services.

From the perspective of a district health authority, working to make the service even better than it is — and I certainly fail to recognise many of the criticisms made — the reforms, given the vested interests who object to any change, are going along pretty well. The majority of the public judge the service by how it looks after them when they need it. Since the reforms a lot more people have been treated and the impact of the increased emphasis on primary care and care in the community is very positive.

For the reforms to be truly successful we need to know that the treatment received was that most likely to give the best outcome, and we are still a long way from having that assurance. But at least we are getting to the point where the right questions are being asked.

Yours sincerely,  
STAN DENNISON,  
Chairman, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District Health Authority,  
John Keay House,  
St Austell, Cornwall,  
August 8.

From Dr Gillian Ford

Sir, I welcome the positive response your distinguished correspondents have made to Sir Duncan Nichol's proposal for a rigorous healthcare debate. Who knows better than he

where some of the bodies are buried, and what might follow if some of the most unhappy victims were to be exhumed? But I share their doubts whether such a forum is the best way to pursue this pressing matter of public policy.

The need, surely, is for a continuing, non-partisan programme of position papers, enjoying the sponsorship, if not necessarily the full agreement of the Royal Colleges, somewhat along the lines of the educational commission launched in 1990 by Sir Claus Moser, and substantially supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation as well as the British Association and other bodies deeply concerned at the way our public services are developing. Or declining?

Yours faithfully,  
GILLIAN FORD  
(Deputy Chief Medical Officer,  
Department of Health 1977-85),  
9 Ryecote Mead,  
Dulwich Common, SE21,  
August 5.

From Dr Peter Ferrer

Sir, The experiment of reorganisation referred to by Sir Raymond Hoffenberg (letter, August 4) has been repeated for every health service reorganisation that I have lived through since 1974.

He is on target when he asks why Sir Duncan's questions were not asked before. I suspect that a question was asked and the aim was quite simple — how can Government cut the growing cost of the health service in a way that the electorate will just about accept, irrespective of the effect the cuts will have on patient care and staff morale?

Yours sincerely,  
PETER FERRER,  
The White House,  
15 Oxford Road,  
Woodstock, Oxfordshire,  
August 4.

From Dr Helen Grant

Sir, Sir Raymond Hoffenberg is to be congratulated on surrounding the word "reform" by inverted commas in his letter about the health service, for we learn from the *Oxford English Dictionary* that this word means "to make better".

Mrs Thatcher was the first to use the word in this context when she outlined her plans for the future of the NHS about 15 years ago. She continued to employ it at every opportunity, knowing that if you repeat something often enough and loudly enough people will eventually believe it.

## ITV viewing gains

From Mr Marcus Plantin

Sir, Peaktime figures released recently by ITV have been misinterpreted in your interview with Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1.

We did not claim, as it states, that ITV's lead over the BBC had increased by 50 per cent this year. Our figures relate only to the past three months. By July ITV had a 45 per cent share of the peak time audience. This put us 14 per cent ahead of BBC1, and compared with our lead of 9.5 per cent at the end of March.

Yours sincerely,  
MARCUS PLANTIN,  
Network Director, ITV,  
Independent Television Association,  
200 Gray's Inn Road, WCI.

From Mr Gordon Connolly

Sir, I am afraid that Mr Yentob of the BBC is, innocently I'm sure, misleading your correspondent Alexandra Freeman.

Contrary to his statement that the BBC has not received a single complaint from viewers about repeats this summer, it received one from me at least two weeks earlier on this very subject.

I am, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,  
GORDON CONNOLLY,  
Clare, Cold Ash,  
Newbury, Berkshire,  
August 5.

## Afghanistan murder

From Sir Nicholas Barrington

Sir, I was deeply shocked to read about the murder of Mirwais Jalil (letter, August 3), the able and personable young Afghan journalist who bravely assisted the BBC correspondent in Kabul and gave help in many ways to other journalists and visitors.

It is tragic that the power struggle in that unhappy land has reached such a point that there appears to be no respect for Afghan traditions of protection for a guest or visitor.

I hope that Mirwais' family will be well looked after, that the perpetrators of his murder will one day be caught and punished and that, at a time when the news is about Africa, we shall not forget Afghanistan, with which Britain has so many historical connections.

Those courageous Afghans like Mirwais, who have been risking their lives to promote some sanity, integrity and humanity in their country, deserve our support. They are the true patriots.

Yours etc,  
NICHOLAS BARRINGTON  
(British Ambassador and High Commissioner in Islamabad, 1987-94, and nominated non-resident Ambassador to Afghanistan, 1994),  
The Athenaeum,  
Pall Mall, SW1,  
August 3.

Sure enough, the word "reform" is now in ubiquitous use in the context of the NHS, conning us all with its "feel-good factor". But these "reforms" have eroded the Hippocratic principle upon which our NHS was founded: doctors may no longer put the patient first — now they have to put the money first.

This marketing approach to the nation's health is not a reform: it is a disaster.

Yours faithfully,  
H. C. GRANT,  
10 Antrim Grove, NW3,  
August 4.

From Professor Emeritus M. D. Warren

Sir, The crux in financing a public medical service is a decision about the scope of the service. Is it to be a basic service for emergencies only, an adequate service, or a service providing every treatment that is possible? Is the service, or parts of it, to be available to everyone, or limited to groups defined by age, income and capital or quality-adjusted life-years?

Is it possible to define "adequate service"? The committee of enquiry into the cost of the National Health Service (1953-56), chaired by Mr C. W. Guillebaud, doubted it, although the concept has been assumed since the beginning of the NHS.

Hopefully the proposed Healthcare 2000 will illuminate these issues and set out in detail the implications of different levels of funding of the NHS. It must state in terms of services available and of access to them what is meant by "providing the best service possible within the limits of the available resources" which all governments claim they have been doing for almost 50 years.

This way choices can be made about the level of funding that is acceptable and possible within the limits of national expenditure.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL WARREN,  
(Professor Emeritus of Social Medicine, University of Kent at Canterbury),  
2 Bridge Down, Bridge, Canterbury,  
August 4.

From Mrs H. Phillips

Sir, Mr Wayne asks (letter, August 8), "where is the voice of the patient...?" From those who look to Bart's for care it was embodied in a large petition. It was ignored.

Yours faithfully,  
HILARY PHILLIPS,  
140 Barnsbury Road, NI,  
August 8.

## The deaf as jurors

From Mr Mark Kenner

Sir, Having recently acted as foreman on two juries I cannot see why a deaf person should be any less capable of "contributing an equal, independent and sensible voice to the deliberations" in the jury room, nor of grasping a particular case than a person with normal hearing, as initiated by Mr Tyler (letter, August 9).

It was my experience that the majority of my fellow jurors were in fact incapable of either of the above despite having no apparent hearing difficulties.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK I. KENNER,  
16 Carlton Close,  
Edgware, Middlesex,  
August 9.

## Communion dispute

From Mr Mark Roberts

Sir, The reply (August 8) from the Bishop of Chichester about a woman priest seems to me to avoid the issue. The hypothetical question remains, would he have allowed a female priest (albeit external) to celebrate Communion within his diocese?

Yours sincerely,  
MARK ROBERTS,  
12 Kingscourt Street, Belfast,  
August 8.

serve our support. They are the true patriots.

Yours etc,  
NICHOLAS BARRINGTON  
(British Ambassador and High Commissioner in Islamabad, 1987-94, and nominated non-resident Ambassador to Afghanistan, 1994),  
The Athenaeum,  
Pall Mall, SW1,  
August 3.

From Dr M. A. Amanyar

Sir, Allow me to express my view on behalf of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) concerning a letter in your paper by Mr Sandy Gall (August 3).

Mr Mirwais Jalil, the BBC journalist whose murder was a crime that has been condemned not only by individual HIA members, but through a press release by the party on July 30, 1994. A thorough investigation is under way to find the culprit for Mr Jalil's murder and we are confident that your readers will have the truth of the matter in the not too very distant future.

Yours faithfully,  
M. A. AMANYAR  
(Representative of HIA in the UK),  
Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan,  
BM Box 2084, WC1N 3XX,  
August 3.

## Sidelights on the Burton poem

From Mr Robert Hopwood

Sir, Whilst detracting nothing from the excellent articles and comment for the tenth anniversary of the death of Richard Burton (August 6) I think a couple of other points are worth mentioning.

It seems more likely that Burton wrote his poem in the USA than in "that favourite pub of his" The Dorchester, since filming on *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in which he appeared, did not finish until mid-December 1965. The title of the poem, "Portrait of a Man Drowning", a direct quotation from the play (and film), would perhaps reinforce this view and the context of the title within the play/film might give to some an interesting insight into the poem.

Secondly, the poem was written five days before Burton's fortieth birthday, an event not unknown for its thought-provoking qualities, even though it is a matter of record that Burton's sense of *timor mortis* and Celtic gloom were always acute.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT HOPWOOD,  
54 Bowbridge Lock,  
Stroud, Gloucestershire,  
August 8.

From Professor Alastair Michell

Sir, There is perhaps another factor in the despair that haunted Richard Burton's life and found expression in his unpublished poem. In the early 1950s he became, particularly through his Henry V, Hamlet, Othello and Iago, a natural successor to the grand Shakespearean mantle of both Olivier and Gielgud, for he uniquely combined the attributes of their different talents for acting and for dramatic verse — as also emphasised in *Under Milk Wood*.

The early postwar English theatre was under the spell of verse drama, not just Shakespeare but Eliot and Fry in particular. But in 1956 the goalposts moved from the Old Vic to the Royal Court.

In February, Burton triumphed as Iago (alternating Othello with John Neville) but in May *Look Back in Anger* set a new course. The focus of the new English drama, which revitalised British theatre, diminished the importance of his exceptional combination of talents. All of these actors adapted to the new opportunities but there were many others who could and did excel in the plays of the new dramatists. The art that Richard Burton had perfected — of great stage acting animated by poetic truth — seemed, for that moment, to have been marginalised and by this accident of timing he was uniquely deprived.

Yours sincerely,  
ALASTAIR MICHELL,  
Brewers Cottage,  
59 Brewhouse Hill,  
Wheatthorpe, Hertfordshire,  
August 6.

## Words on tombstones

From Mr Euan Lloyd

Sir, On August 9 I stood quietly in the ancient graveyard at Sept-Saulx, near Reims, to pay my respects to seven young RAF men, aged between 21 and 30 years, shot down nearby in 1943. They share a communal grave, beautifully tended by villagers with help from London. A propeller blade, embedded in stone, carries names and ranks. On the reverse is welded a primitive V (for victory) sign.

On the seven white markers installed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are messages from their stricken families. Four out of seven include tender messages of love from Mum, Dad, Grandad and variations thereof.

On arrival in Dover seven hours later, still moved by those private moments in Sept-Saulx, I was shocked to hear a discussion on BBC radio on recent events in Freckleton, Lancashire, wherein the Reverend Stephen Brian was reportedly offended by the use of "pet phrases" on Mr Frederick Brown's headstone (report and photograph, August 10).

To the survivors of those seven gallant RAF men their lost ones were indeed pets and their terms of endearment wholly appropriate. Higher authority in the Church of England should overturn the consistency court's ruling.

Yours sincerely,  
EUAN LLOYD,  
The Saville Club,  
69 Brook Street, W1,  
August 10.

## Heavenly advice

From the Reverend S. J. Davies

Sir, May I assure readers of your *Appointments* in the forces announcement (August 1), who will have read of two appointments to the Army's "Pool of Chaplains", that a notice on the edge of the large fish and water-lily pool at the Royal Army Chaplains' Department Centre, Bagshot Park, Surrey, reads: "Please do not walk on the water."

Yours obediently,  
S. J. DAVIES,  
The Devon and Exeter Institution,  
7 Cathedral Close,  
Exeter, Devon,  
August 5.







**SIR ERIC FAULKNER**

A member of the committee, in evidence to the effect that they carefully considered the eligibility for the ascent and felt that success, and Mr. Keighley, a deposed that the back of the man was badly broken, the coroner said this parachuting was a dangerous occupation, but they did to have understood all about it with it, and if there was these wires he was present to have had the balloon moved out of clearing them. he was and hurled to the ground. returned a verdict of "Accident."



# ● Cheaper luxury in Spain ● World's surfers in Cornwall ● Support for ramblers

## Spanish reduce hotel tax

By EDWARD OWEN

SPAIN'S socialist government decided this week to reduce the 15 per cent VAT rate imposed on five-star hotels to 6 per cent from January 1 next year.

Many of the top hotels that fought for the reduction had already found a neat way round the additional levy by simply "down-grading" themselves to four stars instead.

Five-star hotels found they were losing custom because of the 15 per cent VAT and almost all applied to have a star lopped off, which meant they had to pay only 6 per cent.

"It is good news," said Juan Jose Bergis, aged 62, director of the famous Palace Hotel in Madrid, immortalised by Hemingway. "The 15 per cent was too high after the boom and we had to decide what had most power: the five stars or the name of the Palace. We opted to apply to the Madrid regional government to lose a star. They could not refuse. I think the minister capitulated because it looked bad that Spain, where tourism is the main industry, seemed to have only a few five-star hotels."

But restaurateurs are now angry that the minister did not adopt the same rate of VAT for five-fork restaurants. In Madrid during the past two years 50 have closed and several have downgraded themselves.

## Britain on the crest of a wave

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MORE than 100,000 tourists have converged on the Cornish town of Newquay this week for a four-day international surfing competition.

The Headwax Pro Surf, held on Fistral, Cornwall's most famous beach, has attracted international surfers from as far away as Australia, and some of Britain's best-known names. British challengers include Martin Potter, 28, a former world champion, and Russell Winter, 19, a former UK junior champion.

Newquay's Hotel and Tourist Association says most of the cheap bed-and-breakfast accommodation in the town was booked up early, although some more expensive hotel rooms are still available.

The British Surfing Association (BSA), based in Penzance, says its membership of 2,000 is growing steadily. Spokesman Colin Wilson says a recent survey found that there are more than 50,000 regular surfers in Britain.

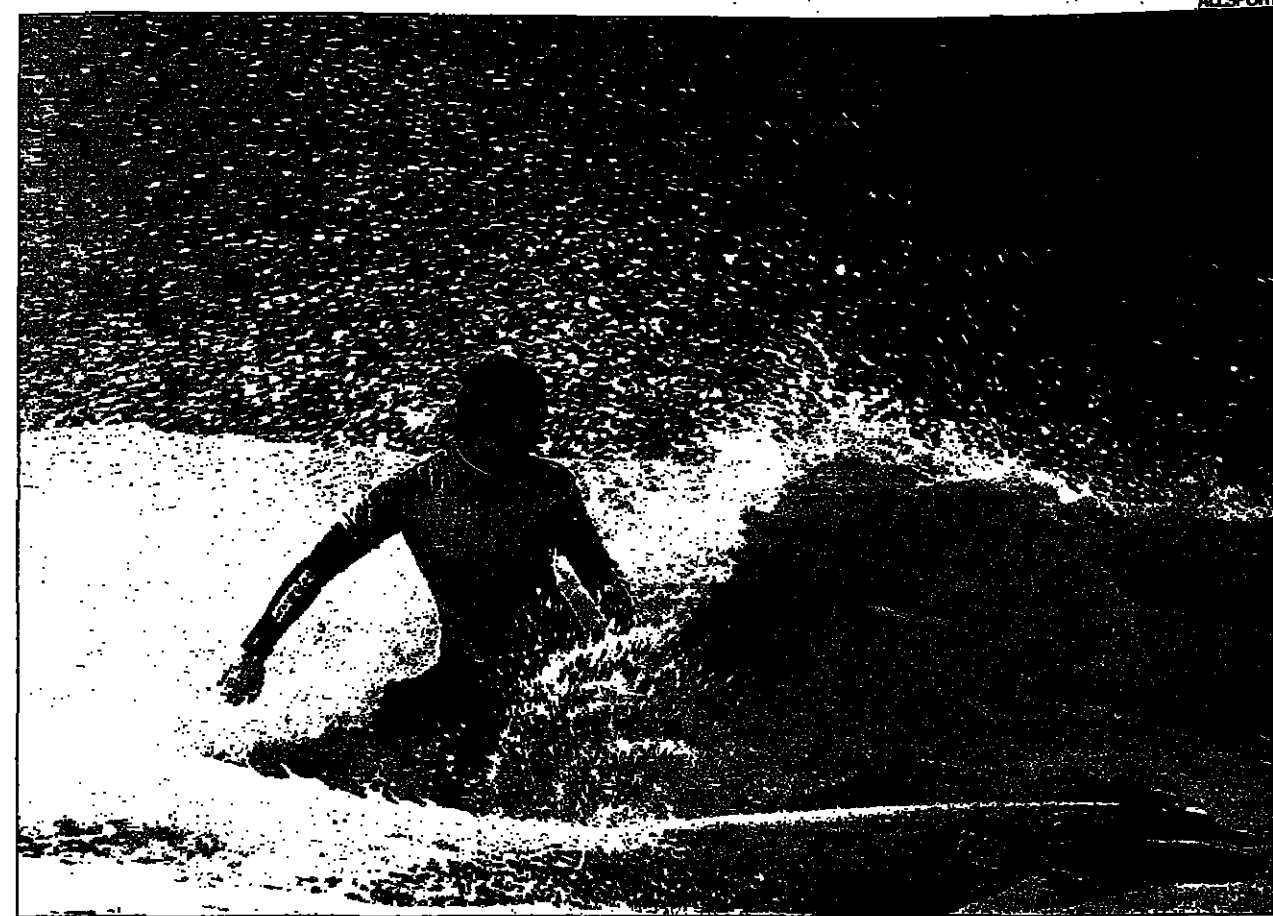
"Most live in Cornwall, North Devon and South Wales, but there is a big community in Newcastle, a hard-core of enthusiasts in Scotland and quite a number in Bourne-mouth and Brighton," he says. Insurance against injuring a third party is now compulsory in Cornwall after local councils began tightening regulations.

Peter Bounds, a former captain of the British surfing team and several times Welsh Open surfing champion, set up surf

courses for beginners two years ago. His watersports centre, West Wales Windsurfing & Sailing, at Dale, near Haverfordwest, in Pembrokeshire, offers a day's tuition for £30. He says: "Now that wet-suits protect the wearer from even the coldest seas the sport is really taking off."

The BSA is, however, concerned at the low numbers of women enthusiasts. "At 13, girls are as keen and as good as boys when they learn to surf, but they become more self-conscious as they get older and lose interest. They start again in their 20s but have lost those vital teenage years which really shape a professional," Mr Wilson says.

While a fifth of surfers in the BSA annual student competition are women, only one of the 100 entrants in the most recent British championship was female. Australia, America and even Costa Rica boast women surfers' associations. Now the BSA has launched a campaign to persuade more girls to take up the sport.



A champion's tip: Eden Burberry says that girls need to jostle with the men for the right position to catch a wave

you it is impossible to look good," she says. "You are exhausted and bedraggled and the salt water wrecks your hair. Your skin has to endure the ravages of wind and weather and in the winter the sea is freezing. Wet suits are

unflattering to all but the most perfect figures.

"For me, these are not good enough reasons to give up but it does take several years to be a competent surfer and teenage girls get distracted. You also need to be very aggressive

to jostle for the right position to catch a good wave when a beach is very crowded."

Burberry, 29, has been surfing for 12 years and became interested in the sport when her family moved to Newquay when she was 11. She will

compete this week but says that in most competitions women's prize money is half that of the men.

British Surfing Association (0736 60250). West Wales Windsurfing and Sailing (0646 636642).

## Village strikes back

A TINY Cumbrian village which has been by-passed in a new guide to Britain's most popular long-distance walk has launched its own campaign to bring hikers back to the region. Marianne Curphey writes.

Thousands of ramblers used to rest at Orton in Eden, 16 miles from Penrith, as they made their way along Alfred Wainwright's famous Coast to Coast Walk.

When the route of the 190-mile trek was revised in the most recent edition of the book to bring it closer to its original route, shopkeepers, hoteliers, and guest house proprietors found trade drying up. Only a trickle of walkers made the diversion to the village, where once it had played host to 200 to 300 people a week from May to August.

Businesses in the village each paid £35 towards the printing of 10,000 leaflets publicising Orton. James Shuttleworth, Orton's postmaster who runs a store with his wife Carole, reckons he has already lost £2,500-worth of business which was once generated by walkers. "Orton's tea room, shop, craft centre, and bed and breakfast owners are all suffering," he says.

The new leaflet has been sent to tourist information centres and is available from the village post office (05396 24225).

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# Discount deals offer best value • New Dieppe harbour opens • Car-hire dangers

## Package dealers win on insurance

By Gillian Williams

THE 200,000 people who last week bought discounted summer 1995 holidays will still save money, despite being forced to buy often over-priced insurance policies.

A Travel News survey in the wake of scepticism about the real value of the discounts has shown that the 15 per cent reductions on offer from high-street travel agency chains are greater than the money that can be saved by shopping around for a cheaper travel insurance policy.

Travel agency chains offset the cost of discounts by earning up to 60 per cent commission on insurance sales.

Thomas Cook's compulsory insurance package is £29.95 for 17 days. The independent policy it sells to people not looking for a discounted holiday is only £1 cheaper at £28.95. The mark-up is significant. Jeffery Klipp, managing director of Marcus Hearn, a travel insurance broker, says his company sells 17-day policies for next summer at £12. The price will go up in October, when the Government imposes tax on all insurance policies, but will, he claims, cost well under £20.

Nonetheless, the holiday-maker wins. Thomas Cook's 15 per cent discount means a £59.85 saving on a £399 holiday. Given a £17.95 difference between the cost of insurance bought through a broker and a travel agent, that still represents a £41.90 saving.

Lunn Poly's Standard European Policy also costs £29.95. Richard Bowdler, Lunn Poly's marketing director, says: "By buying both insurance and a discounted holiday through Lunn Poly, we believe customers spend less on their total pack-

age. By comparison, people who purchase annual travel policies are not eligible for holiday discounts offered by the country's major travel agents."

He claims that a family taking a fortnight's Thomson holiday to Salou, Costa Dorada, will save £179.25 by taking advantage of Lunn Poly discounts, with insurance.

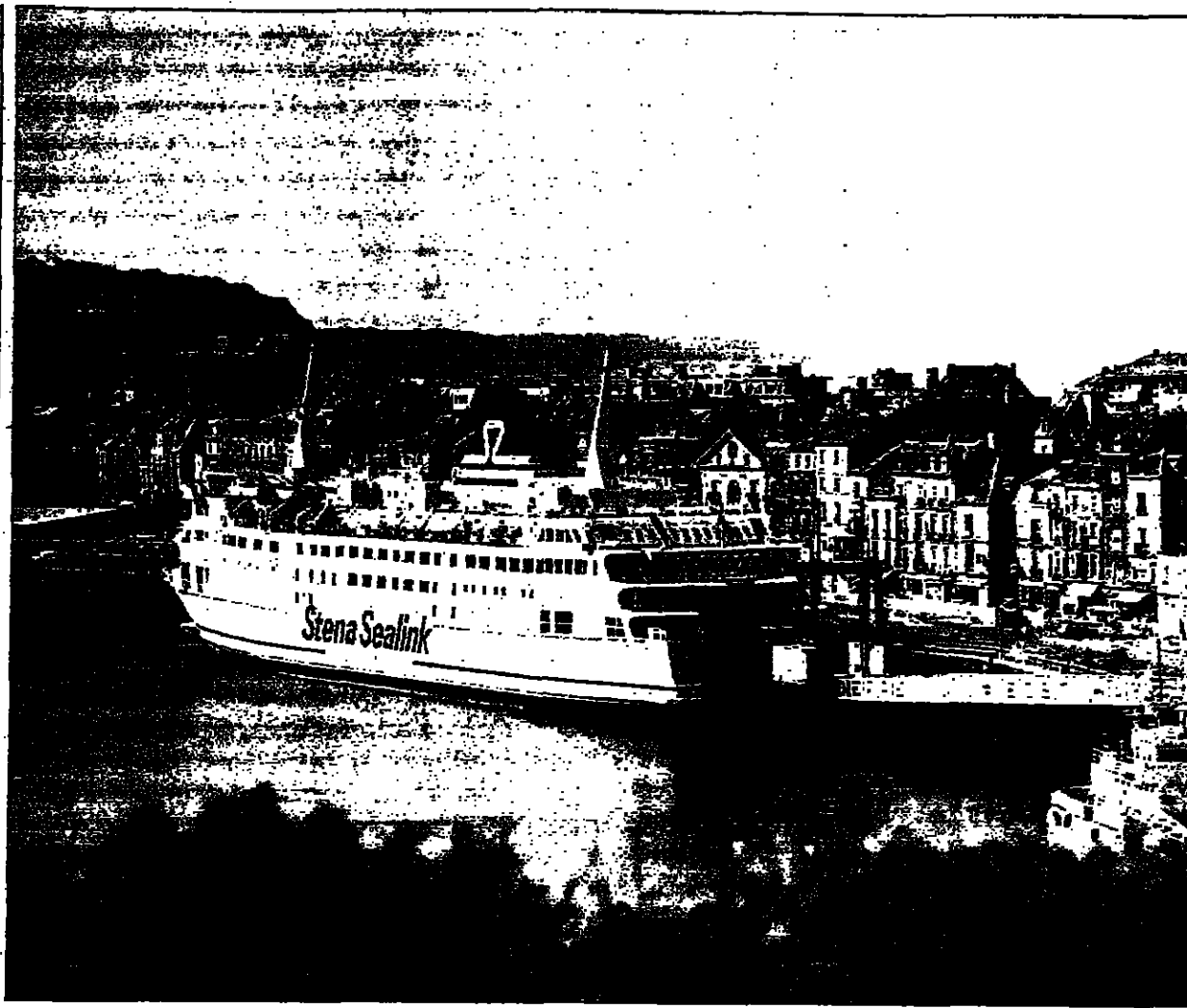
Andrew Jones, marketing manager of Going Places, admits that while savings on holidays are obvious, it is difficult to compare cover on insurance policies. "You can buy holiday insurance cheaply but policies must provide adequate cover," he says.

Private holiday insurance is vital, even within European Union countries. The form EU1, offering reciprocal medical care within the EU, pays for between 75 and 80 per cent of medical bills in many state hospitals and does not pay registration costs in the event of illness or accident.

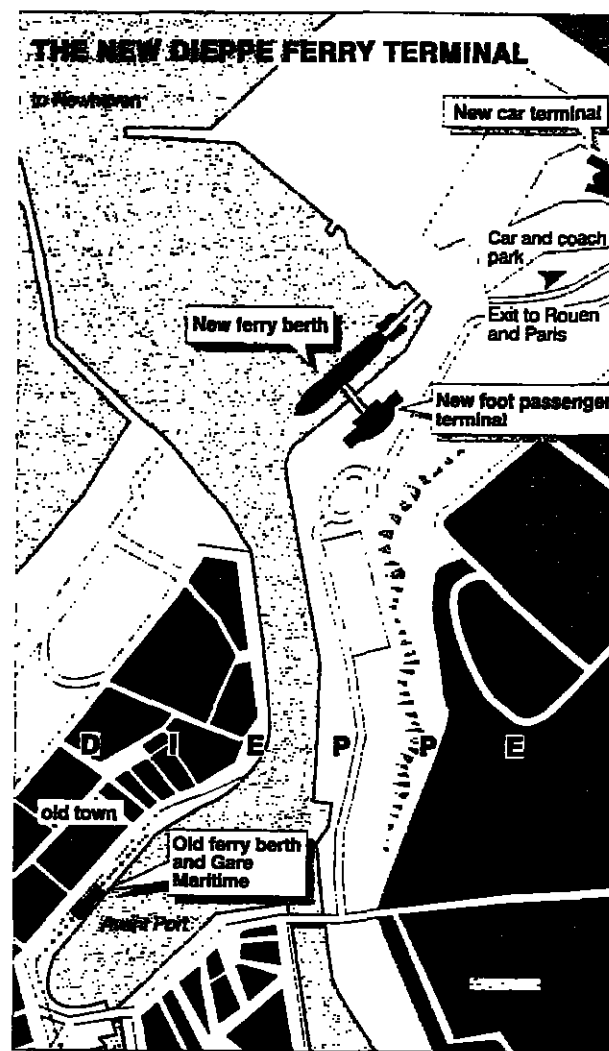
By law, travel agents must now ask whether you have insurance. Many agents will ask you to sign an indemnity stating you have arranged insurance elsewhere.

Although the big chains are making money from insurance, the object of the discounting exercise is to win business. Mr Jones says: "Like supermarkets, multiple travel agencies rely on large volume sales to offset low profit margins."

Keith Berton, spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents, says: "They're not discounting holiday travel insurance. If customers re-acted against the insurance sales, the market would react accordingly."



Dieppe harbour as it was, allowing passengers to step off the ship and go straight to shops, and right, the new layout, which will remove the danger of traffic damage to old buildings



## Crossing route to France cuts time

By Robin Young

CROSSING times on the Newhaven-Dieppe ferry service, the oldest ferry link between the United Kingdom and France, will be reduced by up to 25 minutes, to three-and-a-half hours, as a result of last week's opening of Dieppe's new £40 million port.

The new port — designed to divert traffic from Dieppe's historic centre and to accommodate bigger, faster ships — cuts out lengthy docking procedures in the narrow confines of the old harbour.

A new road allowing all drivers to bypass the town relieves the 18th-century houses that line the quayside from the threat of damage by construction traffic.

On the other hand, the changes mean that foot passengers will no longer be able to step off the ship and go straight to the town shops and quayside restaurants. Nor will

### FERRY COMPANIES TURN TO BUCKET SHOPS TO SELL SURPLUS TICKETS

By Steve Keenan

FERRY companies fearful of Channel Tunnel competition are slashing fares by 50 per cent through a new breed of airline-style bucket shops.

The emergence of firms selling last-minute bookings for ferry crossings to France has seen average prices slump for the summer peak — despite demand being about 10 per cent higher across the Channel compared with summer 1993.

The ferry companies rely largely on full-price, peak-season car bookings to make money, having filled spare capacity in off-peak with £1 newspaper offers and cheap promotions. A family taking their car on a Dover-Calais return this summer is paying an average of £220

compared with a charge of £290 last year.

John Taylor, the marketing manager for Hoverspeed — which is charging £295 for a return flight on a hovercraft between Dover and Calais compared with £315 last year — says: "It is a trifle silly when you think that the Channel Tunnel is not even open. We should all have made money this year — but I estimate that overall ferry revenue has fallen by 15 per cent this year."

Stena Sealink says that "unprecedented competition" has forced it to join the discount "war". Ferry Plus, a new company set up in June, is selling only

Stena tickets. This week it was quoting £110 for a night sailing to Calais on Sunday, compared with Stena's brochure price of £220. For a peak-morning crossing on Saturday, Ferry Plus (£81-680 4400), of Croydon was quoting £256 compared with the £320 brochure price. Thomas Cook quoted the same crossing at £265.

Other companies selling cheap tickets for other ferry operators include Drive-line Europe in Poters Bar, Hertfordshire, the Travel Market in Dover and Leisure Direction in Crouch End, north London. The discounts include a Sally peak five-day departure from £165 to £82.50. A £320 Saturday crossing with Hoverspeed is reduced to £160.

million a year by the end of 1994. The company expects cars carried to exceed 200,000, and freight vehicles to top the 50,000 mark for the first time. The new port, below the

cliffs to the east of the old harbour entrance, has parking space for 300 cars and more than 100 lorries. Its new vehicle "Linkspan", a floating ramp which speeds loading and unloading, will also accept Stena Sealink's new 663 million high-speed ferries, due to be introduced in the next 18 months. When deployed on the Newhaven-Dieppe service, these will cut the crossing time to well under two hours, less than half the previous time.

Dieppe's old harbour is now to be redeveloped as a marina, and when the old ferry terminal buildings are demolished, several restaurants along the Quai Henri IV will regain harbour views that they have been denied for decades.

Special-offer summer fares include a standard return of £150 for a car and up to five passengers, or £99 for a car and two, on selected sailings between Sundays and Wednesdays until September 12.

## Fish war hits angling trips

By Jack Crossley

AS THE commercial fishing wars continue in the Bay of Biscay, the overfishing that underlies the row is rebounding on the travelling angler seeking holiday sport.

Fish are becoming harder to find and deep-sea charter skippers are having to travel further and further in search of their quarry. In inshore waters, those trying to make a living from operating tourist angling trips must travel further out to sea. In addition, they need expensive high-tech equipment, including navigational aids linked to satellites.

Skippers now take "amateur" fishermen 20, 30, even 40 miles to find good fishing waters, where before they might have sailed only a few miles from shore. Higher fuel costs mean that some fishermen are having to take a second job ashore in order to earn enough to keep the boat going, often as a labourer of love.

Nick Light, treasurer of the National Federation of Charter Boat Skippers, runs a sea-angling operation off Brighton — but also works for a property company. "You have to work harder in most areas these days to find fish," he says, "but there are some exceptions. Off Brighton we are catching better conger eels now than we have seen for a long time."

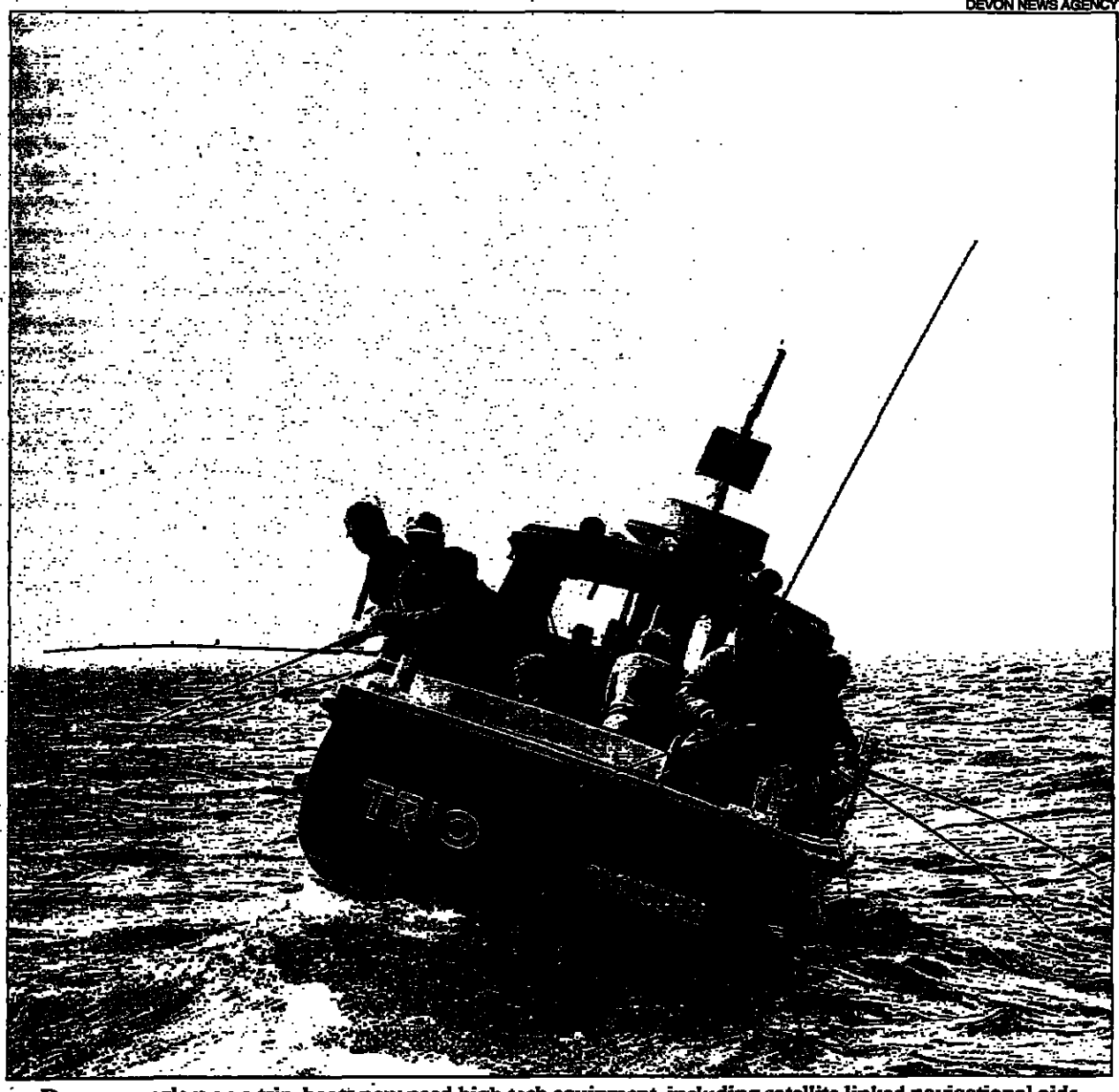
"Two decades ago it was the exceptional boat that had Deca navigating equipment. Now virtually everybody has it, together with satellite navigation gear to find the fish ten miles out and more."

To launch a new sea-angling chartering service with all mod cons can cost anything between £100,000 and £150,000. A strict new government-imposed code of practice has forced 20 per cent of skippers to give up rather than pay for new safety equipment costing thousands of pounds.

Reef fishing off Polperro, Cornwall, costs £9 for a half-day and £18 for a full day and the local harbour master Chris Curtis charges £25 a head for sharking trips on Bonnie Victoria. The 380hp Lagosta II run by Bryan Byrne from Middleton, Co. Cork, can reach wrecks 40 miles off the Irish coast within the hour and is booked up seven days a week at £200 a day.

In the South East, fishermen will probably have to pay £150 a day for a normal boat while a bigger, faster long-distance craft could cost more than £300.

All is not gloom, however. Young people are still taking up the sport and the membership of the National Federation of Sea Anglers is a healthy 35,000.



Deep-sea anglers on a trip: boats now need high-tech equipment, including satellite-linked navigational aids

## AA car-hire tips could save your life

By Kevin Eason

HUNDREDS of holidaymakers this summer face financial loss and even serious injuries through renting cars at home and abroad.

The Automobile Association is braced for a rush of complaints as families return home with stories of over-charging and hire cars that range from being the wrong size to simply unsafe.

The AA said yesterday that often tourists, probably suffering from travel fatigue or jet-lag, did not read the small

print on hire agreements or were loath to protest about vehicles with faults.

The results could be costly and disastrous — as they were for one British couple on holiday in the United States. They hired a car in Seattle and were suspicious of its handling. They returned to the hire depot only to be told all California the car went over a cliff seriously injuring the couple. The AA discovered numerous complaints about

the car, including a bald tyre, and the couple eventually won damages worth more than £250,000.

Their case is one of the most extreme, although not unusual, according to Mike Watkins, the AA's legal expert. He says: "Going for the cheapest option and not reading terms and conditions first and travel fatigue can be the undoing of many holidaymakers. They hire cars for the freedom of

travel only to be locked into long and tedious wrangles with car hire firms later."

To help travellers avoid the pitfalls of car hire, the AA has issued a ten-point checklist:

• Hire your car from a large reputable company, which will make it easier to deal with in a dispute.

• Name co-drivers.

• Check insurance cover for any loopholes or any excess to be paid in the event of an accident.

• Consider paying extra for a collision waiver to protect you from paying for any damage to the car should you be involved in a crash.

• Check travel limits to discover whether you are confined to any one country or state in the case of the USA.

• Inspect the vehicle on collection, including the spare and jack, and immediately point out any faults to the company. Do not be afraid to refuse the car or return it.

• Find out what to do in a breakdown and check how to carry out routine maintenance, such as filling wind-screen-washer bottles and replenishing oil.

• Be clear on the procedure for returning the car, particularly out of office hours.

• Inspect the vehicle on return and ask the representative to put in writing any damage.

• The tour operator Page & Moy (0533 524344) is offering packages to the four-mile track, including overnight

### TRAVELOGGS

#### Peace win for BA

LINKS with the Middle East are rapidly getting back to normal since the Israel-Jordan peace deal. The new political stability has enabled British Airways to reintroduce flights to Beirut and Amman from December 5. Services to Beirut were suspended in 1983 and those to Amman in 1990.

Flights to London will be overnight and include the first-class sleeper service. Initially, flights will leave Heathrow on Monday and Saturday, but the frequency will rise to four a week from next summer.

#### Right road

COACH operators, already cashing in on the signalmen's strike, by helping commuters get to work by road, are gleefully pressing home their advantage by appealing directly to leisure travellers.

"Fed up with French air traffic controllers and striking railway signalmen causing you problems when going away on holiday?" Shearings, the big coach operator, asks in its latest marketing drive.

It is now offering five days on the south coast of Britain for £114, including travel from a range of northern cities, a nine-day tour of Bohemia for £274 or a nine-day South of France half-board holiday for £189.

HEATHROW passengers must allow extra time for their journey as roadworks on the M4 between Junctions 3 and 4 cause long delays for London-bound traffic from Heathrow. The work is expected to last another seven weeks.

#### Quick break

MOTOR-RACE enthusiasts wanting to cheer on Damon Hill as he attempts to close the gap in the Grand Prix drivers' championship can travel to see the Belgian Grand Prix at the Spa circuit over the August Bank Holiday from £49.

The tour operator Page & Moy (0533 524344) is offering packages to the four-mile track, including overnight

coach travel to the race from London, Nottingham, Leeds, Birmingham, Sheffield and Liverpool.

#### West End break

RADISSON Edwardian, London's biggest privately owned hotel group, is offering summer breaks from £39.50 a person including dinner or free tickets to a West End show during the rest of this month.

#### Wine search

WINE merchants have turned travel agents to market wine holidays to New Zealand in January and February next year. Wine Rack, the high-street specialist, is offering a comprehensive winery tour,



with optional add-ons and excursions, arranged with Edwin Doran's Travel World (081-744-1212), and priced from £1,899 a person.

#### Low Eire fare

PASSENGERS can fly from Heathrow to Dublin from nine British airports with Aer Lingus on return fares costing from £69.

The state-owned subsidised airline, which is struggling to reorganise itself to compete with Europe's biggest and strongest carriers, has also introduced a family fare which enables a family of up to two adults, two children under 18 and two infants under two to travel for £199 return with no advance purchase necessary.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott







German Romantic painting at the Edinburgh Festival

Medieval chronicles by one of the monks of Magdalen

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Crossword Challenge 32

# THE TIMES

THURSDAY AUGUST 11 1994

## One in four directors has been in a failed firm

By Jon Ashworth

ONE in four company directors has been involved with a failed company in the past six years, a survey has found, and more than 1,000 individuals have been directors of at least ten companies to have failed.

The survey, which also suggests that almost 27,000 directors have been linked with more than one failed company, has fuelled fresh criticism of the role of the Department of Trade and Industry in vetting directors.

The further evidence of the ease with which rogue directors continue to operate comes after hard-hitting attacks on the DTI last autumn,

when the Institute of Directors said that incompetent administration was to blame, and called on the department to review its methods.

Nearly a quarter of a million UK directors have been associated with a failed company, according to CCN Business Information, of Nottingham, which carried out the survey. David Coates, assistant managing director, said that current procedures for disqualification fell well short of the mark.

Mr Coates said: "The 'serial failure' who leaves behind a string of failed companies and bad debts is a real problem that the authorities should be treating with much

greater urgency. The delay in pursuing disqualification, and the lack of co-ordination by the courts for notification and publication of the names of disqualified directors, lead to inadequate cross-checking at Companies House, which has to work with incomplete information. These all act against the public interest. In the meantime, these people are free to defraud and lose other people's money."

The number of directors to be disqualified has remained at about 300 to 400 a year, in spite of a big rise in company failures in the past five years. Just over 1,200 people are currently disqualified from holding

office as a director as a result of fraud and other unlawful activities.

The DTI has been under pressure to review procedures since publication, last October, of a hard-hitting report by the National Audit Office that suggested that rogue directors were seven times likelier to escape detection than in the late eighties, and sought an overhaul of administration. The IoD added its voice to the chorus of criticism, saying that it was "virtually a lottery" as to whether a director would be banned. The odds against blacklisting were about a hundred to one, it said, blaming a failure in administration.

Yesterday, an IoD spokesman

said: "There are a lot of directors out there who somehow escape the net. They can wind up an insolvent company and start again the next day. They are a menace to the general public and to other businessmen, who may be dragged down because of their actions."

The DTI defended its record yesterday, saying that steps had been taken to tighten procedures since last autumn. Thirteen company directors had been convicted in the first quarter of 1994, after enquiries by the department's investigations division, up from three in the previous quarter. Seventeen directors had been disqualified

for periods ranging from two to 15 years.

Directors in Scotland are the least likely to have suffered a company failure, CCN suggests. Those in London and the South East present the greatest risk. They are almost a third more likely to have had a business failure and two-thirds more likely to suffer more than one company collapse. Overall, female directors are less likely to have had a company failure and men are twice as likely to be serial failures. CCN is a subsidiary of Great Universal Stores.

Pennington, page 23

## Industry in best shape for six years

By Ross Tremain, Industrial Correspondent

MANUFACTURERS' orders, output and optimism are increasing in every region of the UK, for the first time in six years, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

A joint analysis of the CBI's July quarterly trends survey by the CBI and Business Strategies, an economic consultancy, shows that inflation triggered by capacity constraints remains a distant prospect; significant rises in factory gate prices were uncovered in only two regions. Companies are also starting to invest to raise output, though not yet to the same extent as their rivals overseas.

The findings show that Britain's economic recovery has spread to every corner of the country, two years after it began. The fastest growing regions of the 1990s — the South East, East Anglia and the East Midlands — are again starting to outpace the national growth rate. But they have been joined by two previously blighted areas: the West Midlands and Wales.

Regions that weathered the recession comparatively well, such as Scotland and the North, are failing to benefit as much from recovery as the southern regions that were worst hit.

Charles Burton, a director of Business Strategies, said: "Some of those regions which did comparatively well are continuing to recover but are not showing the same degree of bounce back."

The survey, which took soundings from 1,139 manufacturing companies, appears to undermine suggestions that skill shortages could seriously hamper recovery.

Overall, only 9 per cent of companies said skilled labour shortages were a constraint on their expansion, the highest level recorded, in Yorkshire and Humberside, was only 13 per cent. And there was evidence that firms in affected regions had stepped up their training and re-training efforts to address the shortages.

Inflationary pressures are weak. Noticeable increases in

domestic prices during the past four months occurred only in Wales and in Yorkshire and Humberside. In all other regions, the majority of companies saw prices fall, or rise only slightly. Price increases are expected in the future, particularly in the three fast-growing regions: the South East, East Anglia and Wales. But past expectations of increases have often been unfulfilled.

Spare capacity is declining quickly. In the East Midlands and the South West, half of companies questioned are working at capacity. The analysis shows that where capacity constraints are developing — in the East and West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside, the South West and Scotland — companies expect to invest "markedly more" in plant and machinery over the next 12 months.

Overall, 29 per cent of companies are investing to expand capacity. However, Sudhir Jumanekar, the CBI economist involved in the study, said: "Investment intentions are certainly not as strong as many people would expect."

The greatest optimism about the general business situation is to be found in Northern Ireland. Both domestic and overseas orders there have improved.



Testing the water: William Courtney, Southern Water chairman, took time out for a paddle at Worthing beach yesterday where a £35 million waste water pumping station, part of the £450 million operation sea clean, is helping to bring bathing water up to European standards

## Clarke holds out against rate rise

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England agreed to leave interest rates unchanged at their meeting on July 6, the minutes, published yesterday, show. Kenneth Clarke said that "rates might have to be raised sooner or later" but added that in his view the time had not yet been reached. The tone of the Chancellor's contribution to the meeting suggests that he is far from conceding the need for higher rates.

In one notable passage, the Chancellor said there were signs that the housing market had flattened, that consumer spending had eased off slightly and that "it was now less likely that the economy would grow too rapidly."

The two men have met once since then.

on July 28, and the minutes of that meeting will be published on September 21. It is thought unlikely that either advocated raising interest rates on July 28, nor that agreement to do so will be reached at the next monetary meeting, on September 7, particularly as key economic indicators due in the next few weeks are expected, if anything, to show some weakening in activity during July.

The minutes released yesterday show that the main new source of inflationary concern highlighted by Eddie George, the Governor, was the recent CBI survey which suggested that many more companies expected to raise output prices in the period ahead. However, at least for July, this fear was unfounded. Official

figures this week showed that, despite rising prices for imported commodities, output prices in July were no higher than in June.

In another passage in yesterday's minutes which suggests continuing reluctance to countenance talk of higher rates, Mr Clarke pointed out that competitive pressures faced by manufacturers were likely to restrain price increases. Both the minutes and last week's *Inflation Report* from the Bank note that some of the inflationary risks identified by the Governor in previous meetings had become less worrying.

Pennington, page 23  
Economic View, page 25

## SCI allowed to raise bid for Great Southern

By Colin Campbell

THE Takeover Panel last night cleared the way for Service Corporation International to raise its controversial takeover bid for Great Southern Group, and win Britain's third largest funeral group.

It ruled that there had been a "genuine mistake" in SCI's announcement on August 2 that it intended to raise its bid to 775p.

Great Southern has said that it will recommend SCI's offer at 775p, valuing the group at £12.9 million. SCI should acquire it by the end of this month, now that the takeover clock, halted on day 43, re-starts.

The panel said there were wholly exceptional circumstances that allowed it to give dispensation.

It concluded that a competitive situation had arisen, and noted that SCI has made arrangements for compensation to be paid to shareholders who might have been misled by a press release of August 2.

Loewen, the Canadian financial adviser, applied for the panel to be invited to negotiate with Great Southern as a potential white knight — but which did not formally table a takeover bid

— had urged the panel to abide by its own rule book and deny SCI permission to raise its bid from 680p to 775p.

Loewen argued that SCI had said on August 2 that 680p was a final offer. On August 3, SCI issued a formal document in which it reserved the right to raise its bid in a competitive situation.

The panel concluded that SCI had fully intended to reserve its position, and that the omission was attributable to a genuine mistake.

Dispensation to allow SCI's 775p offer to be formally made would, the panel believed, be in the best interests of all GSG shareholders.

It said: "But for the fact that there had been a genuine mistake, the circumstances of the present case could not have been wholly exceptional."

The panel emphasised last night that its ruling was not a precedent.

On receipt of the ruling at 4pm, Loewen and Barings, its financial adviser, applied for leave to appeal to the Appeal Committee. The panel refused to grant such leave.

Pennington, page 23

BUSINESS EDITOR  
Lindsay Cook

BUSINESS  
TODAY

TAKE OFF



GKN, one of Britain's biggest manufacturers, has signalled a faster than expected upturn in its main markets  
Page 23, *Tempus* 25

TAKEN IN

Fraud has grown at an alarming rate despite predictions it would level off  
Report, page 22  
Pennington, page 23

TAKE ON



Standard Chartered pledged to avoid unethical behaviour in efforts to win new business  
Page 23, *Tempus* 25

TAKE DOWN

Argyll, the supermarket group that owns Safeway, is to launch a cheaper own-label range  
Page 22

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\*\* Basic rate set to 1992 — source: BZW. Therefore, highest net rate available from Miroslaw (12.5.94).

Accounts: Figure is based on total return, net income reinvested, invested 31.12.45 — 30.6.94.



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LONDON CLOSING PRICES		MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 26		SHARE PRICES PAGE 28	



## Philips plan for £180m chip facility

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, unveiled plans to invest 500 million guilders (£183 million) in microchip fabrication at its plant at Nijmegen, in The Netherlands (Colin Narbrough writes).

The announcement came on the eve of first-half results and pointed to a recovery in confidence at Philips. The plant, which begins production at the end of 1996, will create 300 jobs. Target production will be 10,000 eight-inch sub-micron wafers a month, primarily aimed at personal communications, multi-media and consumer products.

## Carsberg backs deregulation policy

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Bryan Carsberg, the director-general of fair trading, has defended the Government's deregulation initiative against charges that it is likely to lead to weaker consumer protection.

Publishing his annual report yesterday, Sir Bryan said that national economic policy should be directed to achieving the greatest possible consumer well-being.

Urging critics to take a long-term view, he said that "the elimination of some regulations can promote consumer interests by bringing about better information, regardless of savings in costs".

But Sir Bryan said it was right to introduce new regulations when that was necessary to improve the quality of information available to consumers. He said Kenneth

Clarke, the Chancellor, had accepted recommendations from the OFT for new regulations to oblige sellers of financial products, such as life assurance and pensions, to disclose more information.

The report reveals that the OFT took action to prevent 58 estate agents from trading in 1993. Overall, the number of complaints about unfair trading practices fell 66 to 1,577. However, the number of mergers examined by the OFT rose 50 per cent, to 309.

Seven suspected monopolies were referred to the OFT, down from eight in 1992, covering products as diverse as condoms, ice cream, recorded music and laboratory equipment, in addition to services such as mortgage valuations and financial information.



Sir Bryan said the number of complaints about unfair trading practices fell in 1993

## General Accident plc

RESULTS FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 1994

	6 Months to 30.6.94 Estimate £million	6 Months to 30.6.93 Estimate £million	1993 Year Actual £million
Premium Income			
General Business	2,141.7	2,102.2	4,181.8
Long Term Business	435.9	413.7	866.1
	<u>2,577.6</u>	<u>2,515.9</u>	<u>5,047.9</u>
Investment Income	234.2	242.7	509.1
Excess Agency Result	(5.3)	(4.5)	(9.5)
Underwriting			
General Business Result	(44.9)	(125.0)	(229.0)
Long Term Business Profit	25.9	20.9	49.1
	<u>209.9</u>	<u>134.1</u>	<u>319.7</u>
Less: Interest on Loans	6.7	9.4	15.9
Employee Profit Sharing Scheme			8.9
Profit before Taxation	203.2	124.7	294.9
Taxation	40.0	20.7	49.6
Profit after Taxation	163.2	104.0	245.3
Minority Interests	1.7	(0.3)	0.7
Preference Dividends	10.5	8.8	19.5
Net Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	151.0	95.5	225.1
Earnings per Ordinary Share	33.4p	21.3p	50.0p
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results			
U.S.A.	\$1.54	\$1.48	\$1.48
Canada	\$2.13	\$1.96	\$1.96

Notes  
The above results of the General Accident Group for the six months ended 30th June 1994, estimated and unaudited, are compared with those for the similar period in 1993, which are restated at 31st December 1993 rates of exchange. Also shown are the actual results for the full year 1993. These results do not comprise the statutory accounts for 1993 which have been audited without qualification and filed with the Registrar of Companies.

There are no "discontinued operations" or "acquisitions" as defined in FRS3.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

### ANALYSIS BY TERRITORY OF GENERAL BUSINESS PREMIUM INCOME AND UNDERWRITING RESULT

	6 Months to 30.6.94 Premium Income £m	6 Months to 30.6.93 Underwriting Result £m	6 Months to 30.6.93 Premium Income £m	6 Months to 30.6.93 Underwriting Result £m
U.K.	777.5	93.5	681.5	3.5
U.S.A.	633.8	(69.2)	683.7	(74.6)
Canada	294.1	(36.7)	316.0	(6.9)
Pacific	196.4	5.6	176.0	2.9
Europe other than U.K.	109.0	(10.3)	117.5	(19.8)
Other Overseas	61.8	(7.3)	48.5	(7.7)
London Market Business incl. Internal Reinsurance	69.1	(20.5)	79.0	(23.3)
	<u>2,141.7</u>	<u>(44.9)</u>	<u>2,102.2</u>	<u>(125.0)</u>

Commenting on the results, Mr. Nelson Robertson, General Accident's Group Chief Executive, said:

"Following an excellent result in the second quarter - which produced a worldwide underwriting profit - we have achieved a further and substantial improvement in our operating performance at the half year. A profit at the pre-tax level of £203m represents an increase of almost £80m over the first half of 1993 which was itself a period of significant recovery."

"In the UK, we continue to benefit from maintaining selective underwriting procedures while at the same time expanding our portfolio. Mild weather during the period has also contributed to the excellent improvement in our UK underwriting result."

"In the United States, we have seen further improvement in the underlying profitability of our business although the results for the period were adversely affected by storm losses in the opening quarter."

"Despite improvement in the second quarter, particularly in the Property accounts, results in Canada for the half year were also seriously affected by weather losses. Market conditions remain difficult, but successful raising action is now beginning to take effect and should impact positively on the important Private Auto account."

"We have seen excellent results from all our businesses in the Pacific region which produced an increased profit and good premium growth at the half year. In Europe, the welcome improvement reported earlier in the year has continued during the second quarter."

"We continue to be encouraged by our new business production in the Life area which is making an increased contribution to profits."

"The strength of our recovery in the UK and the Pacific demonstrates that the actions we have taken - and continue to take - have been effective. In our other major territories the full impact of remedial action has yet to appear but we are encouraged that positive signs of improvement are now beginning to show through in both the United States and Europe despite difficult market conditions. We therefore look to the future with some confidence."

Long term Business  
New annual premiums for life business in the United Kingdom for the first six months were £27.3m (1993 £26.0m) and single premiums £251.6m (1993 £176.2m).

Dividend  
The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st December 1994 of 10.1p per share (1993: 9.7p per share) costing £45.7m (1993: £43.8m) payable on or after 1st January 1995 to ordinary shareholders on the Register of Members at close of business on 3rd November 1994.

The Directors propose to offer ordinary shareholders the opportunity to receive fully paid ordinary shares in the company in lieu of the cash dividend.

Net Assets Per Ordinary Share/Worldwide Solvency	Current (as at 04.08.94)	31.12.93
Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share	441p	545p
Solvency Margin Worldwide	54.4%	65.5%

Current figures are estimated and reflect conditions in world equity and bond markets. They include an appropriate amount for dividend and trading result up to 4th August 1994. The inclusion of part of General Accident's growing life business accounts for approximately 8 points of the current solvency margin.

A full copy of the interim announcement for 1994 can be obtained from: The Secretary, General Accident plc, Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.

## Fraud in Britain shows alarming rise, says KPMG

By JON ASHWORTH

FRAUD in Britain has shown an alarming increase, in spite of predictions that it would level off this year. Alleged frauds in the mortgage and investment markets gave rise to charges involving more than £254 million in the first six months, exceeding the total for the whole of 1991.

The figures were inflated by a single case in which it is claimed property developers conspired with a solicitor and valuer to defraud mortgage lenders to the tune of £100 million.

The case, which is pending trial, is alleged to have involved false valuations and fictitious transactions. One

levels of mortgage fraud were on the decline. One-off cases aside, the figures were nevertheless surprising.

Mr Huntington said: "We thought there would be a pretty dramatic drop, yet we are still seeing some quite significant frauds coming in from different areas."

"Although 1995 and 1996 are likely to show a drop in value as the number of large frauds being uncovered falls away, our investigation experience shows that the risk of corporate fraud has increased."

Mr Huntington said that the number of recession-driven frauds should have come to an end.

The next phase, he said, was likely to see increasing fraud among middle managers, as they came under increasing pressure to perform.

There is a danger that they will manipulate results to create the impression that their performance is up to standard.

"We're seeing this in the investigations we're carrying out," Mr Huntington said. "Often, it is not a question of personal enrichment but of being seen to succeed." The recession encouraged many companies to strip out layers of management and make individual managers more responsible for their divisional profit centres.

There were nine cases of banking and finance fraud in the first half involving £167 million. Cases involving private investors totalled £74 million.

Cases involving the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Polly Peck and Maxwell Communication Corporation pushed fraud charges to a record £705 million last year.

## Cheaper own-label range for Safeway

By OUR CITY STAFF

ARGYL, the supermarket group that owns Safeway, plans to launch a further, cheaper own-label range as part of an overhaul of the business.

The new range, which is expected to appear on the shelves next month, will replace lesser-known, tertiary brands. The move is an attempt to sharpen the price positioning of Safeway, which shoppers have perceived as the most expensive of the major supermarkets. It follows the launch of cheaper own-label ranges by key competitors, such as Tesco's Value Lines and Asda's Farm Stores.

Argyl's initiative is part of the fundamental review of the Safeway operation announced in May, aimed at improving sales and cutting costs. Sales per square foot stand at just

over £600, compared with Sainsbury's £970 and Tesco's £780. One food retailing analyst said Safeway's fundamental problem was that many consumers, deterred by its higher prices, used it to "top up" their grocery shopping, rather than for their main weekly food shop. Safeway is also expected to introduce loyalty bonuses, larger economy pack sizes and other promotions.

Analysts expect substantial job losses among the company's 1,500 head office employees at Hayes, Middlesex. This would follow similar restructuring at both J Sainsbury and Tesco, which between them have cut about 1,500 jobs this year. Argyl is expected to announce redundancies when it delivers its interim results in November.

## Procter & Gamble reverses losses

PROCTER & Gamble, the American consumer products company, at present in battle with Europe's Unilever over washing powder brands, yesterday reported a 2 per cent rise in fourth quarter sales to \$7.5 billion and final quarter net earnings of \$406 million. This was a sharp reversal of the 1993 final quarter, during which a restructuring led to a \$1.2 billion loss. About \$1.5 billion was wiped out by the restructuring.

For the year to June 30, Procter reported sales almost unchanged at \$30.3 billion, from which it earned a net \$2.2 billion. The previous year's restructuring resulted in a \$656 million loss. Net earnings per share were 56 cents for the final quarter, against a \$1.83 loss. For the year, net earnings were \$3.09 against a loss of \$1.11.

## Metal Bulletin ahead

SHARES in Metal Bulletin, the publisher of information on metals, minerals, textiles and financial derivatives, rose 25p to 485p yesterday. The company reported a rise in profits to £1.21 million before tax (£871,300) in the six months to June 30, and the interim dividend is 4p a share (2.9p). Earnings were 8.1p a share (5p). Trevor Tarring, chairman, said demand for information and services from the metals, futures and options, managed funds and textiles divisions continued to grow. The minerals division, which has lagged behind other divisions in line with its underlying markets, now shows encouraging signs of resurgence.

## Heavy tax bill threat

TAXPAYERS face paying an extra £500 a year for specialist advice once the new simplified assessment mechanism for calculating tax starts in 1996, according to the Association of Taxation Technicians. Erica Stary, the association's president, said the need to comply with stringent new rules meant those who complete annual returns and are currently without advisers may be compelled to seek assistance. She said: "Simplified assessing could result in such taxpayers needing to spend as much as £500 a year on tax compliance." At present, the task of assessing is carried out by the Inland Revenue.

## Sales surge at LVMH

LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the French luxury goods, perfume and drinks group, was overwhelmed by the strength of demand for some of its products in the first half, when sales surged 19.6 per cent to Fr2 billion. Its luggage and leather goods activities, which ran into unexpected capacity constraints, increased sales by 31 per cent to Fr3.19 billion. Sales increased in all other product areas, albeit less spectacularly. Perfume and beauty products sales, under the Christian Dior, Givenchy and Kenzo brands, were up 20 per cent at Fr3.09 billion. Champagne sales picked up late in the first half, which led to a 6.5 per cent increase to Fr1.92 billion.

## Healthcare group grows

WESTMINSTER Health Care, the nursing home and healthcare group, plans to add more than 1,000 beds a year in response to growing demand for private nursing care. Pre-tax profits grew to £11.2 million, from £4.3 million, in the 12 months to May 31. Westminster's first year as a listed company. Turnover was up 36 per cent to £50.4 million, and earnings per share climbed to 18.7p, from 12.4p. A final dividend of 2.75p takes the total to 21.45p. The group said gross profit margins were stable at 32 per cent, reflecting tight cost control. Ten new homes were opened during the year, taking total capacity to almost 4,000 beds.

## Vimto sales fizzing

FINE early summer weather helped to put fizz into interim profits at J N Nichols, the soft drinks company best known for its Vimto brand. Pre-tax profits rose by 11 per cent, to £3.76 million, in the six months to June 30; turnover was £26.82 million, up from £24.06 million. Sales in Britain, where Vimto has 2 per cent of the soft drinks market, benefited from recent reorganisation and exports also improved. The company, which has enjoyed strong demand in the former Soviet Union, is to produce Vimto in Moscow, John Nichols, managing director, said. The interim dividend is lifted to 2.25p from 2.16p.

## Scholes powers ahead

SCHOLLES, the maker and supplier of electrical installation equipment that is the subject of an agreed £96 million takeover bid by Hanson, lifted pre-tax profits by 63 per cent to £7 million from £4.3 million for the year to June 30. Earnings rose to 12.3p a share from 7.7p. Bill Riches, chairman, right, said that in the absence of the bid the board would have recommended a final dividend of 4.55p a share, making a nominal total of 6.25p against an actual 3.4p in the previous year.



## Buyout at Montedison

SP SYSTEMS, a British advanced composite materials subsidiary of Montedison, operating arm of the Italian Ferruzzi group, has regained its independence through a management buyout led by Paul Rodding, founder and managing director. In conjunction with the buyout, SP has brought in Divinco International, Swedish world leader in high-quality polymers for composite materials, as a minority partner. No financial details were available. A spokesman said the business was going well, with SP products now being used by the motor racing and oil and gas industries as well as its original marine market.

## Signet finally disposes of Salisburys

By SUSAN GILCHRIST



James McAdam, of Signet, intends to focus on core business

SIGNET Group, Britain's largest jewellery retailer, has finally succeeded in disposing of Salisburys, its struggling chain of luggage and handbag stores, for £3.18 million.

The buyer is Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman, who is a former chairman of James Wilkes, the engineering group, and a former director of Sheffield United Football Club.

Salisburys Stores, a new company established by Mr Hinchliffe to acquire the 174-store chain, will pay £2.75 million in cash and

take on £430,000 of debt. James McAdam, the chairman of Signet, said that the deal was the final significant step in the group's reorganisation programme started just over two years ago.

He added: "We can now focus all our efforts on our core jewellery businesses and just get on with it."

The deal was welcomed by analysts, some of whom had doubted whether a buyer could be found for the chain.

The chain, which Signet acquired from Next for £77 million in 1988, has suffered falling sales and deepening

losses in recent years. Last year, pre-tax losses increased to £5.3 million and the group was forced to make an £87.1 million provision ahead of its disposal to cover goodwill and asset write-downs.

Mr McAdam said that the sale of Salisburys would have no effect on the timing or likelihood of a capital reconstruction of the group.

Signet is coming under increasing pressure from distressed preference shareholders to overhaul the share structure and raise fresh capital.

Times page 25



□ Chancellor and Governor almost at one □ Directors guilty of 'serial failures' □ SCI secures Great Southern

## The Ken and Eddie show

CHANCELLOR and Governor always hoped that publishing minutes of their meetings six weeks after the event would make them boring. They have not quite realised their wish.

Although there has been another monetary meeting since the latest minutes, as well as an Inflation Report from the Bank of England, they are still enlightening. The Chancellor is clearly more sanguine on inflation and less comfortable about the strength of the recovery than the Governor. Both add up to a desire not to be pushed into an early interest rate rise by the Bank.

On inflation, Mr Clarke rather brusquely dismisses Mr George's worries about the CBI's survey, which showed that many more manufacturers expect to be able to push prices up over the coming months. As Mr Clarke sensibly points out, they may want to raise prices but probably will not be able to because of intense competition. That view, although six weeks old, was amply borne out by this week's figures showing that manufacturers are holding prices down despite the additional cost of imported raw materials.

On growth, there was broad agreement between the two that the recovery is proceeding at a steady pace, although the Chancellor highlights emerging weakness in the housing market and

in consumer spending. But these nuances do not represent major differences. Given that each has a different brief, there is remarkable agreement. The Governor, for example, is reported in the minutes as saying that, while questions remained about the outlook for inflation, these had not become more pressing.

All that the Governor has actually said in successive minutes is that he is closely watching various indicators of price pressures. This is no less than one would expect from the Bank, whose proclaimed duty it is to stand vigil against inflation. But this is a far cry from watching indicators, becoming worried about them and finally deciding to act on them.

Similarly, last week's Inflation Report merely stated that the Government would have to raise interest rates within the next two years if it was to hit its inflation target. Even without base rate increases, the Bank's projection is for inflation of close to 3 per cent in two years' time. Hardly dramatic.

It is clear that neither the Bank nor the Treasury have any firm

timetable for a rate increase in mind. Rather, the two institutions will continue to dissect each month's economic data for evidence that either price pressures or the rate of economic growth is picking up markedly.

Any lingering speculation of an early rate rise after the next monetary meeting on September 7 is likely to be quashed by the run of figures expected next week, when July's retail prices and retail sales are both expected to be weak. This is hardly overheating and it is not in the interests of either the Chancellor or the Governor to resort to cold water tactics too soon.

### The Hannibal Lecter director

SOME spine-chilling research has emanated from CCN Business Information in respect of serial killers of the body corporate. An analysis of more than 900,000 directors of UK companies reveals that close on one in four of the breed — more than 222,000 — have been involved with failed companies

### PENNINGTON



within the space of six years. Of these, almost 27,000 have participated in more than one collapse. Now for the most alarming statistic. The UK harbours more than 1,000 directors with Hannibal Lecter tendencies — those who have graced the boards of more than ten companies that have suffered an untimely fate.

One might imagine that such "serial failures", as CCN describes them, are behind bars or, at the least, barred from boardrooms new. Alas, no. Most, we are informed, roam free, permitted to pursue other directorships.

The cry from CCN, credit and financial information specialists, is that the serial failure, who leaves behind a string of bust

firms and bad debts, is a problem that the authorities should treat with greater urgency. CCN paints a picture of delays in pursuing disqualification and criticises a "lack of co-ordination" by the courts in terms of "notification and publication of the names of disqualified directors".

The DTI, where the disqualification buck stops, stresses that directors of companies that fail are not necessarily guilty of fraud or misconduct. The flavour of Michael Heseltine's regime comes across in the message that there can be numerous other reasons for failure, such as "an inability to cope with competition". The onus, according to the DTI, is on the liquidator, receiver or trustee to file a report if misconduct is suspected on the part of a director. Court action to disqualify a director may follow or the matter may be referred to the SFO.

Certainly, liquidation and fraud are not necessarily synonymous, but it could be argued that, after experiencing serial failures, certain directors should be protected from themselves.

Prospective employees, investors and creditors might also favour a "disqualify and be damned" approach.

### Panel buries Loewen

THE £112 million battle for control of Great Southern Group was finally played out on the 20th floor of the Stock Exchange Tower yesterday — venue for the full Takeover Panel's little tête-à-tête with the warring parties.

A privileged insight into the workings of the City for Service Corporation International, America's largest firm of undertakers, and Canadian arch-rival Loewen. That said, by the end of proceedings, SCI probably felt somewhat more privileged than the visitors from Vancouver.

As Great Southern's share price had anticipated, the Takeover Panel, chaired by Sir David Cairns, backed its executive's decision to let SCI, or more precisely, SCI's advisers, off the Rule 32.2 hook. The notorious press release omission of the rider that the finality of SCI's 680p a share bid

(subsequently raised to 775p) was subject to the appearance of a counter-bidder was duly perceived as a "genuine mistake".

SCI's proposals to compensate those who sold Great Southern stock by way of a 95p payment (albeit out of the pockets of advisers Schroders and Linklaters & Paines) were also noted. So, too, was the fact that Great Southern's board, along with advisers Hill Samuel, left no one in doubt that they believed SCI's terms of 775p were in the best interests of shareholders. At a premium of £3 above Great Southern's share price before SCI's appearance — indicating an exit p/e of 27.6 — few could argue. That said, Loewen was serious enough to ask, via Barings, for leave to appeal to the Appeal Committee — a request not granted.

### Degrees of fraud

THERE are lies, damned lies and fraudulent statistics — or statistics on fraud. Criminal charges, ranked by value, that rise each year suggest a nation sliding ever deeper into financial wickedness. But compiler KPMG concedes the figures are distorted by huge one-offs, with the likes of BCCI, Maxwell and Polly Peck making it hard to assess accurately the level of less sensational white collar crime.

## Fast upturn signals better year for GKN

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

GKN has signalled a faster-than-expected upturn in its key markets and a better performance this year than the company thought likely a few months ago.

Sir David Lees, the chairman, accompanied interim figures with a bullish statement indicating that the group's cost-cutting and efficiency programme was running ahead of schedule. He said annual job losses running at 1,000-2,000 a year since the start of the recession five years ago were slowing.

GKN announced pre-tax profits for the half-year to the end of June rising to £97.3 million from £60 million, sufficiently higher than City expectations to send the shares ahead 6p to 657p. Sir David said: "The results for the first

half show real progress, and the improvement was broadly based. In particular, there was considerable profit improvement in continental Europe. The better figures have been driven largely by cost effectiveness, rather than sales volumes."

He added: "We now expect that 1994 will turn out to be a much better year than was thought likely at the end of 1993."

GKN, which in April took over Westland, the helicopter maker, after a bid battle, saw sales growth from its other businesses rise less than 3 per cent in the first half, held back by price pressures imposed by its customers. But those businesses managed to raise operating profits 29 per cent through cost reductions and other efficiencies.

The interim dividend is held at 8p a share. Earnings per share rose from 9.5p to 16.6p. Sir David said while the aim was to restore full-year dividend cover to the two times earnings the group had enjoyed throughout the 1980s, this did not preclude some increase even before this could be achieved.

The arrival of Westland, which for the first quarter was a 27 per cent-owned associate, complicated GKN's first-half figures. The helicopter business chipped in £5.5 million while wholly owned in the second quarter and £8.2 million as an associate in the six months from October to March. This last figure was boosted by a £4 million early contribution from the settlement of the dispute between the company and the Arab Organisation Industrialisation.

That was only finally settled last week, once Westland was fully within the GKN fold. GKN, therefore, took a windfall benefit of £165 million to offset against the £79 million cash it paid to take control of Westland. Although most will not go into profits in the second half, these would include a £50 million one-off boost as a result.

For the second half, GKN is looking for further improvement from continental Europe, which provides a third of all sales.

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Martin Sorrell, chief executive, said there would be no return to the hype of the 1980s. Improvements would not be reported until "after the fact"

## WPP still cautious despite 50% rise in profit

By OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

WPP Group, the world's biggest advertising combine, sounded a cautious note on prospects for revenues this year, only two days after a bullish announcement from rival Saatchi & Saatchi and despite a 50 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits.

WPP shares, which advanced strongly on Tuesday on the back of Saatchi's comments, slid 4p to 119p, despite an increase in pre-tax profits from £24.1 million to £36.2 million in the six months to June 30.

The group said the experience of the first half had been "patchy and inconsistent". January and February were better than a year previously, but March and April were weaker. By contrast, May and June were "the best two consecutive months that the group has experienced in the last two and a half years", WPP said.

Revenues fell by 1.3 per cent, to £690 million, mainly because of disposals, but on a like-for-like and constant currency basis they rose by more than 4 per cent. The group is paying an interim dividend of 0.35p, up from 0.35p, paid out of earnings per share 1p higher at 3.5p.

WPP ascribes the uncertain pattern of business in the first six months to tax rises on both sides of the Atlantic and continued concern about job security among both consumers and management.

Martin Sorrell, the chief executive, said: "We are cautious about prospects because we don't want to return to the hype of the 1980s. We would prefer to report the improvement after the fact than before."

But WPP did offer its shareholders some words of comfort. Various forms of financing and ways of strengthening the balance sheet are under consideration, including floating the group's market research business and reshuffling short-term debt.

But the group says better profitability and cash flow, and achievement of financial goals, "has lessened the need to examine these alternatives". Although revenues were slightly down in North America, WPP managed to raise them in the UK by 12.3 per cent. In continental Europe, there was an increase of 1.7 per cent, while the total for the rest of the world grew by 13.3 per cent. The number of staff employed, on a strictly like-for-like basis and disregarding the effect of disposals, fell by 2.9 per cent, to 19,237.

Tempos, page 25

## Haulier tells of tough market

By SUSAN GULCHERIST

TRANSPORT Development Group, the second-biggest haulier in Britain, has painted a grim picture of the domestic distribution market and given warning of pressure on margins amid intense competition.

The group said that tendering for contracts and renewals in the third-party distribution market was highly competitive, with margins significantly less than in the past. Further job losses and rationalisation are in the pipeline.

The tough conditions were reflected in the interim results. Although pre-tax profits rose to £17 million, from £3.5 million, in the half year to June 30, the figures in the previous period were depressed by a one-off £12.4 million charge relating to disposals. Excluding these items, underlying operating profits in ongoing businesses fell by 4 per cent to £17.2 million, from £18 million.

The main reason for the fall was a reduction in contribution from the distribution division, whose operating profits dropped to £3.7 million, from £6.5 million, because of the ending of four key contracts and increased losses in the network logistics business. Profits in the storage division slipped to £5 million, from £5.6 million, because of a reduction in beef and butter in EC intervention storage. Hire and transport operations both lifted profits.

The group said that it felt confident that it could hold its own in the current year. The interim dividend is held at 3p.

## Standard takes a stand on ethics

By ROBERT MILLER

STANDARD Chartered, the international banking group, said it has put past scandals behind it and promised to shun unethical business practices to win new business.

Patrick Gillam, chairman of Standard Chartered, yesterday announced an increase in pre-tax profits to £237 million from £170 million. He said: "We are not going to permit any unethical practices to get new business. If we lose out because of that stand we don't mind, because there is enough new business going around the world. Once you have a reputation for absolute integrity you don't even get asked."

Mr Gillam added that there had been much press comment about irregularities in Standard Chartered Securities in Hong Kong and Mocatta, the bank's Hong Kong bullion dealing arm. In June, the Securities and Futures Commission, the colony's regulatory body, publicly reprimanded two of Standard's Hong Kong subsidiaries after an investigation into the share ramping of flotations.

Mr Gillam commented: "We are still investigating the

position in Mocatta, Hong Kong, but in neither case has there been material loss. In both companies there were clear and unacceptable breaches of our international code of conduct. The board regards any breach of the code as unacceptable."

The principal reason behind Standard's improved profits was a £59 million drop in bad debt provision to £69 million. Net interest income for the banking group rose by £2 million to £472 million, but net interest income from treasury activities was significantly lower. In Hong Kong, where

the bank has assets of £13.4 billion, trading profits were unchanged at £106 million after charges for bad debt fell £1 million.

Malcolm Williamson, group chief executive, said the Asia Pacific network continued to be the major contributor to group profits and that the Middle East and Southern Asia continue to make progress in profitability. India, too, he added, "is contributing positively. However, the Indian government has announced its intention to impose penalties on all local and foreign banks which were involved in alleged irregularities in the Bombay securities market in 1992. In our case, together with interest their proposed penalty amounts to £7.3 million. We are appealing against this."

Commenting on Standard's results, John Aitken, bank analyst at UBS, the broker, said: "They are not bad. The problem is that people have been buying Standard's shares to tap into the growth in Asian markets. But in the past two years there does not appear to have been much in the way of trading profits coming out of the bank's Hong Kong and other Asian businesses."



Malcolm Williamson, left, and Patrick Gillam, who announced £237 million profits

## Share boost for chief of Manweb

By OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BRYAN Weston, who retires at the end of this month as chairman of Manweb, the electricity distributor covering North Wales and Merseyside, is leaving the company with shares worth £881,000 and options that are potentially, at today's share price, worth a further £188,000.

Mr Weston, who stood down as chief executive in August 1992, remaining as chairman in a part-time capacity, owned 121,878 shares at the March financial year-end, acquired under an earlier executive share option scheme. They were bought with profits made from the sale of other shares acquired under the scheme.

In addition, under other executive and share-save schemes, he has further share options exercisable at less than half the current Manweb share price of 723p from next year and the year after.

Manweb vigorously defended the incentive schemes as a way of boosting the performance of top executives. The company said: "It is an incentive to make the company perform well and a pat on the back for a job well done." Manweb said it had not put up its electricity prices, currently 7.78p a unit, for two years.

## Union suffers from 'execution errors'

LOSSES in the gilt market and "execution errors" in the derivatives division led Union, the financial services group formerly known as Union Discount, to incur pre-tax losses of £793,000 in the six months to June 30. In spite of the loss, the group announced an interim dividend of 1.5p, compared with no payment last time (Robert Miller writes).

Robin Herbert, chairman of Union, said the group's money market division had recorded an overall loss of £953,000 after incurring trading losses of almost £2 million "as a result of volatile and adverse movements in the gilt-edged markets". Of the £650,000

loss incurred in the derivatives market, Mr Herbert said: "An unacceptably high proportion resulted from execution errors." Union also posted losses of £271,000 from its fund management arm, after opening an office in the Isle of Man and increasing its staffing levels. The group is waiting for regulatory approval from the Manx authorities before developing new offshore products.

Money raised through an £11 million two-for-five rights issue this year was invested in Union's fund management arm and Aitken Campbell, the equity and gilt market-maker, which reported reduced

profits of £122,000. Mr Herbert said: "While the operating results for these businesses during the period have included some start-up costs, the benefits from this investment, together with new business gains, are not expected to begin to flow through until the end of the current financial year."

Union's Sabre Leasing arm, which Mr Herbert said was regarded as a non-core business in view of the impact any upward movement in interest rates would have on operating margins, reported profits of £875,000.

Mr Herbert said: "Although we anticipate a profitable second half, the overall performance of the group will

continue to be influenced by the underlying volatility of the money markets whilst Union remains in this period of transition."

The board, however, remains committed to its view that the group's longer-term growth will come predominantly from those businesses providing specialist financial services, albeit that the benefits of this strategy are taking longer to achieve than had been originally envisaged. The one-off losses in the gilt-edged markets have not diverted us from the implementation of our new strategy."

The shares yesterday closed 8p at 126p.

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## Electricity sector dims ahead of regulator's announcement

ELECTRICITY shares suffered a bout of last-minute nerves ahead of today's regulatory review by Ofwat, the electricity industry watchdog.

Among the losers, East Midlands dimmed 13p to 652p, London 13p to 584p, Midlands 11p to 698p, North West 11p to 694p, Seaboard 13p to 377p, South Wales 12p to 666p, South West 14p to 662p and Southern 11p lower to 663p. Both Kleinwort Benson and NatWest Securities expect the sector to make further progress after the changes have been released.

Meanwhile, the threat of dearer money on both sides of the Atlantic initially sent shares lower. The minutes of the July 6 meeting between

Eddie George, the Bank of England governor, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, suggested that UK monetary policy should be tightened sooner rather than later. The Bank at least would prefer to see rates raised before inflationary pressures start to emerge, while the Chancellor said rates should go up "sooner or later". Dealers say the market already anticipates a rate rise, probably in September.

Lower futures and gilts kept the cash market in negative territory for much of the day in thin trading, with the August equity options

expiry little noticed by the market. But a positive start on Wall Street and recovery by gilts helped to bolster sentiment in London and prompted a late rally for equities.

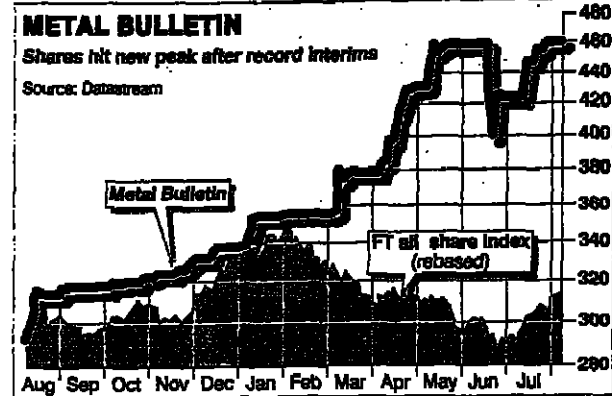
The FT-SE 100 index all but wiped out a one-time 16.4-point loss to end 1.6 lower at 3,167. The FT-SE Mid 250 fell 9.5 at 3,716.9. Volume reached 593 million shares.

Among companies reporting, Standard Chartered fell 17p to 258p in spite of interim profits at the top end of market expectations, although the profits advance was largely due to lower bad debt charges. Elsewhere in

banks, profit-taking saw Barclays slip 5p to 563p, HSBC 16p to 778p and NatWest 2p to 457p, while Lloyds added 6p to 555p.

GKN pleased the City with its first-half results, although the shares closed below their best at 675p, up 6p.

Metal Bulletin advanced to a new peak of 485p, up 25p, with healthy demand for the stock after the specialist publisher reported a record interim dividend and record pre-tax profits up 39 per cent to £1.21 million. Analysts are looking for Metal Bulletin, which has net cash of about £7 million, to turn in full-year pre-tax profits of about £3 million. Enamp, which has a 20.6 per cent stake in Metal Bulletin, firmed up to 430p.



Bass fell 7p to 563p after Hoare Govett recommended a switch into Whitbread, up 1p to 543p, additionally boosted by reports of positive noises from James Capel. Julie Bower at Hoare

per cent yield premium to the market, while Bass was on an 8 per cent premium. Hoare has upgraded Whitbread from undervalued to buy, while Bass is downgraded from undervalued to hold.

Rolls-Royce rose 5p to 201p following a recent Smith New Court buy note. Kleinwort Benson advised a switch out of Enterprise, up 2p to 420p, and into Lasso, up 1p to 155p, on volume of 8.4 million.

Among pharmaceuticals, US demand helped Glaxo to rise 17p to 629p. Elsewhere, British Bio-Technology advanced 12p to 398p, bringing this week's gain to 34p, while the warrants jumped 15p to 88p, up 34p on the week.

GILT-EDGED: Government stocks had a quiet day.

starting easier across the maturity range in subdued range-bound trade.

Stocks tracked European and US bonds with few players willing to take positions ahead of a variety of economic data in the coming week, with short-term direction likely to come from the US market. Gains eventually extended to 1/8 among medium and longer dated stocks. The September long gilt future rose 12 ticks to £107.1/32, in quiet turnover of 39,000 contracts.

NEW YORK: Blue chips continued to trade higher at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average up 11 points to 3,766.76.

PHILIP PANGALOS

## MARKETS AT A GLANCE

## THE POUND

US \$ 1.5402 (+0.0012)  
German mark 2.4250 (+0.0006)  
Exchange index 75.3 (-0.1)  
Bank of England official rate (4pm)

## STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 3,167.0 (-1.6)  
Dow Jones 3,766.76 (+11.01)  
Nikkei Avg 20,770.25 (+10.03)

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 5.14%  
3-month Interbank 5.14%  
US Federal Funds 4.75%  
3-month Treasury Bills 4.42-4.43%  
Long Bond 7.59%

## CURRENCIES

New York: London 1.5395\*  
S. Africa 1.5395\*  
S. Africa 1.5395\*  
S. Africa 1.5395\*  
S. Africa 1.5395\*  
S. Africa 1.5395\*  
S. Africa 1.5395\*  
S. Africa 1.5395\*

## GOLD

London (PM) 378.30  
Close 378.20-378.70  
New York 377.25-377.75  
COMEX 377.25-377.75

## OIL

Brent Crude \$17.60 per bbl (Oct)

## RETAIL PRICES

RPI 144.7 Jun (2.6%) Jan 1987=100  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 2.21  
Belgium Fr 66.77  
Canada C\$ 1.33  
Denmark Kr 10.46  
Finland Mk 5.94  
France Fr 6.55  
Germany DM 2.37  
Greece Dr 375.00  
Hong Kong \$ 7.75  
India Ru 47.77  
Italy Lit 2,036.00  
Japan Yen 106.48  
Malaysia M\$ 2.33  
Netherlands Gld 1.36  
New Zealand \$ 1.36  
Norway Kr 4.76  
Portugal Esc 200.48  
S. Africa R 1.53  
Spain Ptas 166.64  
Sweden Kr 4.76  
Switzerland Fr 2.00  
Turkey Liras 1.36  
USA \$ 1.36

\* Rates for small denominations only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

## Property firm still looking for new chief

By CARL MORTIMER

LESS than five months after its stock market debut, Capital Shopping Centres is looking for a new chief executive. Brian Jolly, head of the £800 million property group which was spun off from Transatlantic Holdings in March, is retiring on Wednesday because of ill-health.

Capital Shopping Centres, which announced profits of £3.3 million for the three months to June 30, is currently interviewing candidates for the job and Michael Rapp, deputy chairman, is holding the reins until a new chief executive is found.

A spokesman said yesterday that Mr Jolly's illness did not become apparent until after the flotation.

Property income from Capital Shopping Centres' seven regional shopping centres was £10 million during the quarter. On a pro forma basis to June, revenue grew from £17 million to £19.9 million, thanks to an 18 per cent surge in turnover to £10.6 million at Lakeside, Thurrock. The regional centre in Essex ac-

counts for over half of Capital Shopping Centres assets, and the company expects that an increasing number of shops will soon be paying a turnover rent on top of the minimum base rent, thanks to double-digit growth in pedestrian flow and tenant revenues.

Donald Gordon, Capital Shopping Centres' chairman, said recovery in consumer expenditure would help the company, which has a high proportion of turnover leases.

"The commencement of regular Sunday trading should provide a further boost," he added.

Brian Jolly, 49, joined the company, then Capital & Counties, in 1972 and became a director seven years later. Capital Shopping Centres' flotation was marred by a sudden fall in bond and equity markets, triggered by fears over interest rates. Only 14 per cent of the public offer was taken up, and trading in the shares opened at a 10 per cent discount to the offer price of 230p, but the shares have since climbed back to 225p.



Dan Sullivan, chairman of Chamberlain Phipps

## Chamberlain in demand

THE public offer of shares in the flotation of Chamberlain Phipps, the footwear maker, has been subscribed about 1.8 times, with applications received for 14 million shares, against 7.7 million available.

Allocations will be scaled down to about 54.9 per cent. The flotation is selling 22.9 million shares at 112.5 million of them placed firm with institutions at the 165p offer price. Dealings start on August 15.

## BA affiliate is braced for a loss

Deutsche BA, the German carrier in which British Airways has a 49 per cent stake, expects a DM20 million loss this financial year.

The company said that this would be a sharp improvement on the loss for the year to March 31, for which no figure has been issued. The BA affiliate has been fighting Lufthansa, the German national airline, for share of the German domestic market.

Deutsche BA expects half this year's loss to arise from start-up and training costs for five new leased Fokker 100s. It said that sales are expected to rise by about DM160 million, to DM460 million, this year and passengers carried to increase to 1.6 million, from 1.1 million last year.

## Racal a winner

Racal Network Services has secured the contract to build and run a data communications service for the National Lottery. Racal, in the winning Camelot consortium, is to create the UK's biggest private terminal/host network, to link 10,000 ticket outlets by the November launch, and 27,000 by the end of 1996.

## Hickson £12m

Hickson International, the chemicals group that makes a soap powder ingredient, says that the "soaps war" between Unilever and Procter & Gamble has held it back. A higher interest charge left pre-tax profits only 0.8 per cent up, at £12.1 million, in the half year to June 30. The interim dividend is held at 2.85p.

## C&amp;G scheme

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society will today unveil an alternative bonus scheme to pay members £1.8 billion when it is taken over by Lloyds Bank. The High Court barred an earlier one.

## Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 79.3

(day's range 79.2-79.4)

Mix Rates for Aug 10

Amsterdam 2,729.2734  
Brussels 2,729.2734  
Copenhagen 2,729.2734  
Dublin 2,729.2734  
Frankfurt 2,729.2734  
Geneva 2,729.2734  
Helsinki 2,729.2734  
London 2,729.2734  
Lyons 2,729.2734  
Madrid 2,729.2734  
Milan 2,729.2734  
Moscow 2,729.2734  
New York 2,729.2734  
Paris 2,729.2734  
Rome 2,729.2734  
Stockholm 2,729.2734  
Tokyo 2,729.2734  
Zurich 2,729.2734

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5% Finance Rate 5%  
Discount Market Loans Credit Rating 10%  
Treasury Bills (Discount) 2 mth 5.1% 3 mth 5.1% 6 mth 5.1% 12 mth 5.1%

Prime Bank Bills (Discount) 1 mth 5.1% 3 mth 5.1% 6 mth 5.1% 12 mth 5.1%

Local Authority Deposits 3 mth 5.1% 6 mth 5.1% 12 mth 5.1%

Building Society CDs 1 mth 5.1% 3 mth 5.1% 6 mth 5.1% 12 mth 5.1%

EGGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance, made up to July 29, 1994. Agreed rates Aug 24, 1994 to Sept 29, 1994. Reference rate July 1, 1994 to July 29, 1994.

1994 Scheme IV & V 5.25%

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## ECONOMIC VIEW

# Time to push income tax off the political agenda

Anatole Kaletsky urges Tony Blair, the Labour leader, to focus on the abolition of capital gains tax and the replacement of inheritance tax

It is conceivable that Labour could find a way of heading the Tories on taxes? To take the standard rate of income tax off the political agenda once and for all as a supposed election-winning issue, would be one of the greatest services that Tony Blair and his new Labour Party could do for the nation.

Nothing has done more harm in recent years to Britain's political culture, to the public's trust in politicians and to the administration of the public sector than the sterile, misinformed and often dishonest argument about which of the two parties would be more likely to cut the basic rate of tax from 25 to 20 pence in the pound.

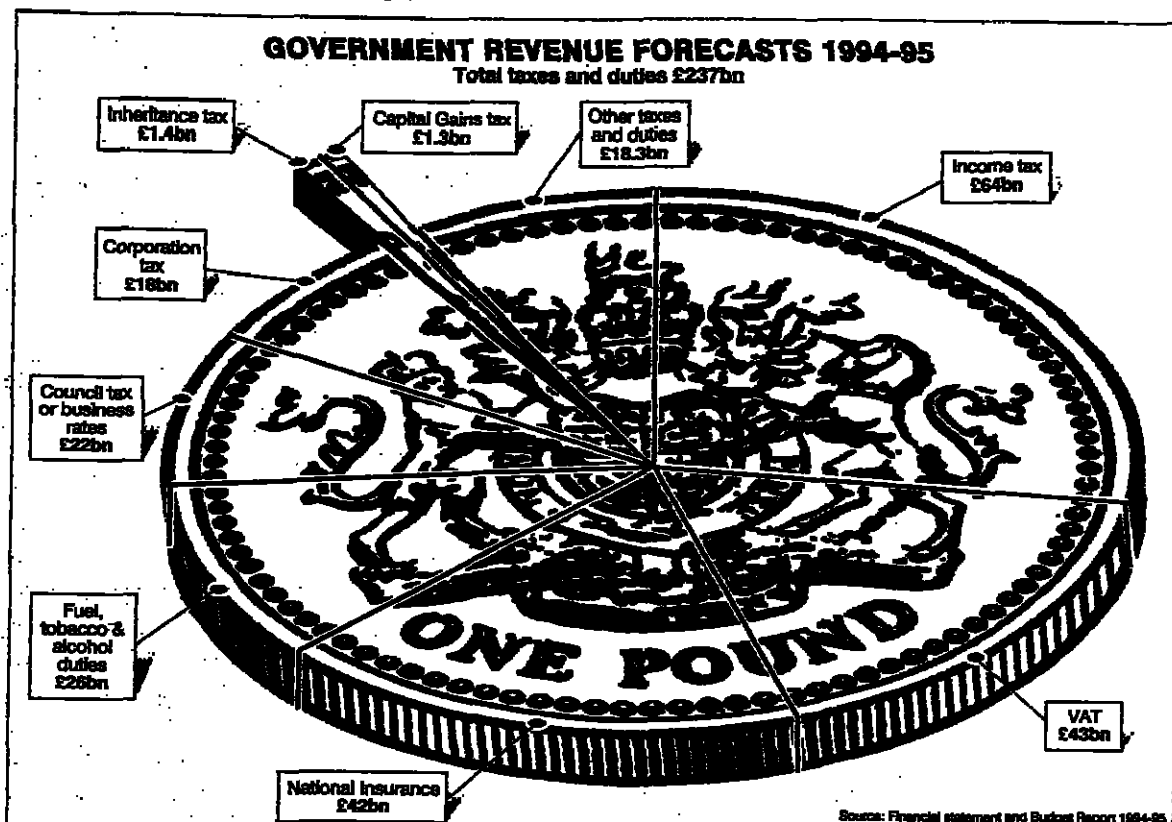
Setting the levels of taxation and public spending is among the most important functions of any government, and a debate on tax and spending should therefore be a focal point of any election campaign. But such a debate, if intelligently conducted, would have no place for such headline-grabbing nonsense as John Major's "long-term aspiration" for a 20p standard tax rate—still less for the illiterate musings about a 15p standard rate attributed this week to "friends of Tony Blair".

Hold on a moment. If Mr Blair is starting a cynically mendacious verbal auction with the Tories about which can promise the lower tax rates, why did I begin this column with even a conditional word of praise? The answer, I assure you, has nothing to do with the sudden trans-media love affair with the Labour leader. I am delighted with the tax-slashing hints attributed to Mr Blair for two quite different reasons.

First, because Mr Blair's friends have finally introduced a much needed element of logic into the debate on taxes. Specifically, they have employed the classic trope of *reductio ad absurdum*. By proposing a 15p standard rate, they have reduced the whole argy-bargy over tax rates to the level of farce. With luck, the laughter about Labour's 15p proposal will prove infectious and will produce similar derision about Tory aspirations for a rate of 20p—or any other arbitrary figure plucked out of the air by politicians desperate for something jolly to say on the hustings.

Regular readers of this column will need little reminding of why I consider arbitrary "headline" tax rates misleading and disreputable as symbols of different governments' or parties' policies on tax. Because of the structure of the tax system, it is quite possible for a government to cut the standard rate of income tax to almost any figure it chooses while actually raising the true burden of taxes. Either a Chancellor can do this by moving money from income tax to VAT, National Insurance and other less visible taxes, as Geoffrey Howe did most spectacularly in 1979. Or he can act less transparently. By juggling with allowances and adding new complications like Norman Lamont's absurd and unnecessary 20p "lower-rate band", it is easy to maintain or even reduce the apparent tax rate while actually increasing the amount people pay.

That was the surreptitious approach taken last year by Mr Lamont and Kenneth Clarke. Both claimed to be acting in full accordance with Tory promises to achieve a 20p standard tax rate, while they actually increased



income tax to a higher level than it attained in the days when Denis Healey was Chancellor. In the same way, before the last election, it was possible for John Smith to claim that he was merely asking the "rich" for a small repayment from the excessive largesse they had enjoyed under Nigel Lawson, when the tax regime he was proposing would actually have been far more draconian to the professional middle classes than the 33 per cent headline tax rates that existed during the winter of discontent.

My second reason to welcome Labour's trial balloon is more positive. Mr Blair is probably not serious about cutting income tax—indeed, given the size of Britain's public sector borrowing requirement, the appalling state of most public services and the overriding importance of maintaining low interest rates, I hope that no politician in Britain is honestly thinking about much lower taxes. But the Treasury's need for at least the present amount of revenue does not preclude important changes in some of the taxes it collects.

**By proposing a 15p standard rate, Mr Blair's friends have reduced the argy-bargy over rates of taxation to the level of farce**

Above all, from Mr Blair's point of view, the pressure for better public services and for a fairer tax system need not prevent Labour introducing two all-important reforms that would benefit the middle and property-owning classes.

Far more effectively than a Dutch auction over tax rates, the changes I have in mind would bury once and for all the image of Labour as the party that represents the politics of envy and give substance to Mr Blair's repeated claim that Labour is now a crusade against poverty, not against wealth. All Mr Blair has to do is turn his attention from income tax to the taxes really hated by savers and really loved by accountants: capital gains tax and inheritance tax.

My modest proposal to Mr Blair is simple: abolish capital gains tax and replace the punitive and irrational inheritance tax maintained through thick and thin by the Tories. Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is now widely recognised by economists around the

world as one of the few imposts that has a genuine and highly damaging effect on incentives. It punishes people for taking risks, it penalises saving, it ties up assets in unproductive uses, and it encourages all kinds of wasteful behaviour. Because CGT is paid only when an asset is sold, it can readily be avoided or deferred, which is why the revenue it generates is tiny.

Yet it has a major effect on incentives, as evidenced by the decline of Britain's venture capital industry since Nigel Lawson's decision in 1988 to raise the CGT rate from 25 to 40 per cent. The reason CGT has a far bigger impact on incentives than income tax is plain common sense (which is presumably why it was never understood by Lord Lawson). People will not change their regular and predictable activities, give up working or even stop saving merely to avoid income tax. But they will stop taking risks or selling their assets if 40 per cent of the profit is confiscated whenever they succeed.

The most sensible way to deal with CGT is to abolish it. The cost of total

The best example is the rule that makes a gift tax-free as long as the donor survives for seven years—a loophole easily exploited by a Duke who can put his wealth in trust, but not available to ailing widow who may have to end her days in a nursing home and cannot risk giving property away until she dies.

The second point is that assuming Mr Blair were not willing simply to abolish inheritance tax, a far more sensible and fair alternative is his for the taking. This alternative tax has been discussed by tax experts and even supported by many Inland Revenue officials, but has been studiously ignored by Tory politicians, betraying the shallowness of their supposed commitment to widening property ownership and respecting inheritance.

This sensible alternative is the so-called "accessions tax"—a tax that would be levied on the people who receive inheritances or gifts. The difference between the two approaches is simple but all-important. The present IHT makes no distinction between a single gift of £1 million from a millionaire to his eldest son and a £1 million estate that is divided into several smaller legacies, helping to spread property around and breaking up concentrations of wealth. At present, both estates would pay £340,000 in IHT before being distributed (in the unlikely event that no special arrangements were to mitigate to avoid IHT). But suppose instead that Labour introduced an accessions tax, levied at the same rate as the present IHT. If the millionaire divided his estate into ten equal parts of the £100,000 each, then none of the recipients would pay any tax. Now, say, his split his estate between four children, giving each £250,000. Each would then pay £40,000 in tax on the part of their legacy above the £150,000 limit. The total tax payment would be only £160,000, instead of the £340,000 charged under the present IHT.

Of course, infinite variations would be possible with different rates and limits to achieve differing social objectives. But whatever specific tax rates Mr Blair were to choose, he could send a clear message to the middle class: the Tories have been playing around with (largely false) claims about income tax, while ignoring your real concerns. If Mr Blair wants to win the trust of the property-owning classes he should do the opposite. Forget about income tax and concentrate on IHT and CGT.

## TEMPUS

## Driving force

GKN is not a company that is given to over-confidence, perhaps with good reason since until yesterday it had not covered a dividend for the past three years. Yet there was an unmistakable tone of triumph in its half-year announcement, as it revealed the fruits of a prolonged efficiency drive and the opportunistic acquisition of Westland.

The 62 per cent growth in GKN's profits is all the more remarkable because it was generated on practically unchanged turnover. Sales within the ongoing subsidiaries rose less than 3 per cent. The bottom line has hardly begun to feel the benefit of volume growth in the group's main drive shaft business and its fabled operational gearing.

Such growth is beginning to show through in the second half and will continue as GKN begins to supply on new contracts. Unit costs

should fall when the group's plant in North Carolina comes on stream.

Profits should be further enhanced since Chep, the pallet distributor, is finally threatening to break into profit in the US and the group's two lucrative defence vehicle contracts with Kuwait and Oman should begin to contribute from the end of the year.

To cap all this, GKN's acquisition of Westland is a steal. The £165 million AOT settlement means the group has paid more than a third of the asking price with Westland's money and could pay for the rest if another claim against the Canadian government is successful.

With all this, GKN can deliver a sustained period of earnings growth. By year-end the company should not only cover its dividend twice, but might even manage an increase.

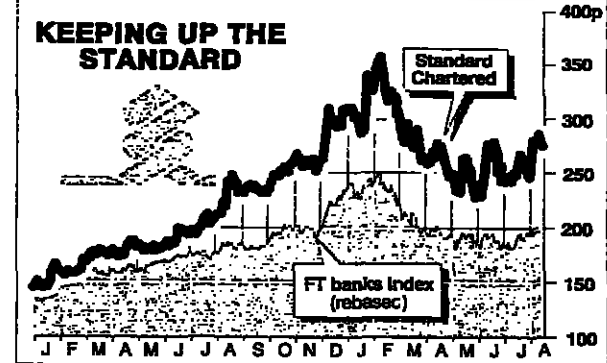
## Standard Chartered

STANDARD Chartered's numbers disappointed the City because they failed to stand out. All the elements of the other banks' interim results were there—a sharp fall in bad debt provisions and tight cost control, which masked flat underlying profitability and slight pressure on margins. But while this was to be expected from the British banks, investors had hoped for something more exciting from a business with a high exposure to the dynamic economies of South-East Asia.

In truth, Standard is following much the same route as its domestic counterparts have been forced down. It is trimming back its lending book to remove any potentially risky customers: the

group's exposure to Hong Kong commercial property has fallen by £50 million to £250 million in the past year. Given the group's past record for taking bad risks onto its books, such conservatism is welcome, particularly since it has been matched by cost control in regions, such as Hong Kong, with high wage inflation.

But Standard has yet to prove whether its non-capital intensive businesses can take sufficient advantage of the economic growth of its regions to replace the earnings it is rejecting from straight-forward lending. Until this policy is shown to be more than lost opportunity, the shares are unlikely to outperform the sector.



## WPP

MARTIN Sorrell and Maurice Saatchi, respective heads of WPP and Saatchi & Saatchi, present an interesting study in contrasts. Mr Saatchi was in optimistic form on Monday, looking forward to a return to the days when companies did not stint on promotional spending to defend their brands.

Mr Sorrell, in more cautious mode, suggests that the sort of revenue rises being seen do not seem much of a return to the golden age rather a very slow slog out of the black pit both companies plunged into a few years ago. Meanwhile, in margin terms, WPP, at 7.3 per cent, is about where Saatchi might hope to be next year, but both are well behind the 10 per cent plus enjoyed by some competitors.

Mr Sorrell has been burnt before by over-optimistic forecasts, but so has Mr Saatchi. Hanging over WPP is the start next month of the £200 million placing of shares by the banks, and some might suggest, given the grief the latter have caused the company over the years, that Mr

Sorrell may not be in the mood to boost the share price in the meantime. WPP, however, was equally conspicuous in its caution as it looked forward to 1994 in March, when it published its 1992 figures, so perhaps the recession has simply chastened Mr Sorrell rather more than his competitor.

WPP shares now sell on a fair 19 times this year's earnings and 14.5 times for 1995. Further progress will have to wait until the banks have had their fill.

## Signet

HANDBAG retailing is not the sort of business associated with superlatives but Salisburys, the chain sold by Signet, must have chalked up a few records in its otherwise undistinguished high street career.

Ratners acquired Salisbury from Next in 1988 for £77 million and immediately wrote off almost as much in goodwill. Earlier this year, the renamed Signet Group held its breath and took the plunge by writing off £87 million: the original goodwill was reinstated and written in

accordance with the rules, but Signet's management has taken an extra £10 million charge, effectively writing off most of the assets. Such a belt and braces approach is appropriate for a business that has always been excess baggage. Last year, Salisburys managed to lose over £5 million, a considerable achievement for a business that only sold £54 million of leather goods, excluding VAT. There is worse: Signet has taken a further provision of £1.5 million on Salisburys's warehouse—apparently the buyers did not want it.

Salisburys's losses were partly caused by neglect: the Signet team was too busy patching up Gerald Ratner's former jewellery empire. That business is back in profit but shareholders are not out of the woods. The cash from Salisburys—£3 million—is loose change against the group's £360 million of debt. The time for the inevitable share issue and refinancing is drawing near if the company is to be brought back on an even keel.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Lloyd's names should be wary of digging too deep

From Mr G.I.A. Tillye  
Sir, The appointment of Philip Holden, a partner in Dibo Lupton Broomhead, as a debt collector, has been promoted by Lloyd's as important to collect debts from those who are dodging payment. The interpretation put on this is that names are able to pay but are not doing so.

I know of too many people, including myself, who have paid their debts and dug deep to keep underwriting, in the belief that 1989 was the nadir of our fortunes, only to find that 1990 and 1991 were worse. People bluster and say that

they are not going to pay Lloyd's a penny more, but most people are inherently honest and nine out of ten have paid their losses to the best of their resources.

There is opposition to paying Lloyd's because of the appalling uncertainty of the future. Lloyd's is not going to resolve its problems by putting debt collectors in who might extract something this year but when they return next year, they will find that the cupboard is bare.

When Lloyd's can plug the hole which drains money from members across the Atlantic

to pay inflated jury awards and spurious interpretations of policy wordings, it may be able to put a full and finite amount on how much each member owes. But there is no point in anyone digging deep to pay £100,000 this year, only to find next year he has another £100,000 to find and only has the clothes he wears.

My advice to every member is, be careful how much you pay until Lloyd's puts a cap on any future liability.

Yours faithfully,  
G.I.A. TILLYE,  
Lower Everley Farm House,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire.

## IoD must remember its own members

From Mr Garth Wiseman  
Sir, While the profile of Tim Melville-Ross and Ann Robinson (July 30) was of interest, especially to a member of the

Institute of Directors, it was also disturbing.

The IoD is a membership organisation and, as such, its *raison d'être* is to provide services to its members.

While the claim was made that the IoD's lobbying reflected the views of its members,

there was no evidence to support this. Instead, the impression was given that IoD policy is an intellectual activity based on economic principles. There may be economic principles, but there are no economic rules except for the doctrine and dogmatism.

It is also striking that while discussions have been held with the great and the good: the CBI, top Opposition politicians, and the general secretary of the TUC, there was no reference to meeting and consulting IoD members.

It is to be hoped that the impression gained of a degree of arrogance and complacency towards the IoD membership in general is misplaced and that the new director-general will resist the attractions of corporatism and remember that he leads a membership organisation whose role is not power politics but to meet the day to day needs and concerns of its members, most of whom, like him, are responsible for running a small or medium-sized enterprise.

Yours faithfully,  
GARTH WISEMAN,  
34 West Square,  
SEL.

## Shareholder meeting prompts disillusion

From Mrs Cynthia Walton  
Sir, I strongly support today's letter from Donald Butcher, United Kingdom Shareholders' Association. As a novice

attender at shareholders' meetings, I went to the AGM of Midlands Electricity (August 3) in Birmingham. MEB became a quoted company in 1990 and the chairman was fulsome in self-congratulation of progress since then. He reported a handshake of around £360,000 to an outgoing managing director who left before his three-year contract expired. However, a questionnaire was able to show that the full farewell payoff package was around £1.1 million, including pensions, potential options, etc and subsequently suggested that

directors should not be appointed on three-year contracts but on one-year contracts, to avoid such pay-offs in the future.

There were over 1,000 people present. However, when questioned, the chairman admitted having received in excess of 87 million proxy votes which would enable all the resolutions put to the meeting to be adopted. What a sham! The meeting was asked to show its support for one-year contracts by voting against the re-election of [board] members and numerous orange voting cards were waved in the air. But of course to no avail.

Yours faithfully,  
CYNTHIA WALTON,  
7 Selly Close,  
Selly Park, Birmingham.

## Tallinn torment

JOHN Major, beating the drum for Britain on his trip around the Baltic last week, pointed out how significant a role British investors were starting to play in the region. But anyone planning to develop business in these fast-emerging markets should keep a careful eye on their flight schedules. What for Heathrow users is almost unthinkable is about to happen in Tallinn, the Estonian capital. Not only will the executive lounge be closed from August 15-18, but the whole of Tallinn airport is to be shut for a major rebuilding programme.

JON ASHWORTH

## Capel's cure

JAMES Capel has turned Roger Hardman's departure as head of small companies research to his advantage. Having hired Peter Main from General Accident to step into Hardman's shoes, the firm has secured a second small companies specialist. Alan Matthews, who moves across from Beeson Gregory, a big thrust into small companies research is promised.

## Deal in miniature

A property deal with a difference for David Winter, creator of the eponymous range of miniature cottages that sends Americans wild with nostalgia. David, whose brother, Martin, is senior venture capital part-

ner at Biddle & Co, the City law firm, is understood to have clinched a new ten-year licence agreement worth about £2 million in paper and cash, on top of his normal royalty arrangement. The deal follows several late night sessions involving John Hine, the Aldershot-based export company that produces the cottages, and which is now owned by Media Arts, an American company.

Brussels bureaucracy, is the bean, because it is the only one that does not give milk. The Milk Management Committee has decided (by a majority of ten to one with one abstention) that soya milk is a description infringing the Dairy Designation Regulations, though coconut milk is accepted. Soya milk, which costs twice as much as the stuff from cows, is used as a substitute by those who cannot take dairy milk for health, religious or ethical reasons. About £10 million of soya

## Soya point

WHICH is the odd one out: a dairy cow, a coconut, or a soya bean? The answer, according to



"All this optimism is making Eddie pessimistic."

## Savoy grill for squaddies

SQUADDIES resigned to a diet of boiled cabbage and crumbling potatoes are in for a treat. The British Army has appointed Giles Shepard, managing director of the Savoy Group of hotels and restaurants, as honorary catering adviser. He will advise the Quartermaster General on such matters as training, food distribution and storage. How the appointment came about is unclear, but it may be no coincidence that Nicholas Soames, the former minister for food, sidestepped to the armed forces in the recent Cabinet reshuffle. He is also no stranger to the Savoy, having challenged Shepard to serve food made only from British ingredients for a month—the clock starts on September 19—and attended a preview lunch at the Savoy the day after the Cabinet changes were announced. And I understand that Shepard, a former Coldstream Guardsman, has been made an honorary major general, bringing to mind *The Pirates*

of Penzance. "I am the very model of a modern major general," Gilbert and Sullivan, needless to say, were discovered by one, Richard D'Oyly Carte, the impresario who founded the Savoy Theatre (and hence the Savoy) and was the company's first managing director. Bon appetit.



# ACCOUNTANCY

## VAT without frontiers

Alan Buckett looks at the debate within the European Union on cross-border value-added tax rules

The European Commission has been seeking views on how cross-border value-added tax rules within the European Union should be changed from January 1, 1997.

The current debate started in 1985, when the Commission published a White Paper that set out a programme for introducing "an area without internal frontiers" in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital was ensured in accordance with the 1957 Treaty of Rome. In order to create such a market in relation to goods, the mechanism for the clearance of goods and the collection of VAT and national borders between member states had to be disbanded.

The Commission's preferred option on the abolition of fiscal frontiers was to adopt a so-called "origin system" of VAT accounting. The key benefit envisaged from this system was that a company sending goods, say, from London to Rome, would have charged UK VAT, the same as if it were sending goods from London to Birmingham. The recipient in Rome, if registered for VAT, would have reclaimed the UK

VAT via its Italian VAT return. Although it was recognised that the "origin system" would most closely fit the single market concept of freedom of movement of goods throughout the EU, the Commission's plans were widely criticised by business organisations and governments. As a compromise, a transitional system that falls short of the full origin system applies between January 1, 1993, and December 31, 1996. The Commission will shortly have to recommend to member states a system which, provided unanimous agreement can be reached, will apply from January 1, 1997.

Now that the transitional system has been in place for 18 months, it is clear that it is by no means perfect. Although many companies are now able to move goods across Europe more speedily and hence more cost efficiently than before, the new regime has been somewhat of a nightmare for companies' accounting staff. The view has been expressed that the burdens of clearing goods through fiscal frontiers have been replaced with new burdens in the accounting departments of supplier and recipient companies. One particular



Alan Buckett wants a user-friendly VAT system

burden is that whereas before January 1, 1993, trade statistics were collected by means of declarations presented with the goods at frontiers, these now have to be collected by companies and returned to Customs separately from VAT returns within ten days of the end of each month.

In the light of the problems with the transitional system that have been identified, should we move to an origin system? Views on this differ. At present, there are many, including the German Ministry of Finance and some UK business interests, which would like to see some form of origin system. Smaller publishers, for example, who send goods across frontiers to pri-

vate purchasers, face a bureaucratic nightmare under the transitional system because they either have to register for VAT in other member states or take advance planning action to avoid the problem. They would prefer an origin-based system, but then UK publishers also want to remain zero-rating for printed matter, which may be unacceptable to other member states.

Others argue that we should not be rushed into hasty changes that might create an even worse monster than the one we have at present. The aim should be to update the Sixth VAT Directive on which all EU VAT law is based, seek ways of improving the existing system to relieve businesses of unnecessary burdens, such as registering companies only once in the EU instead of in all countries, or suspending VAT charges between VAT registered businesses in the EU.

It will be interesting to see which system the Commission proposes and whether, if it is an origin-based system, it can persuade the Council of Ministers to endorse it. My own hope is that whatever system is adopted, it should be easy to understand, simple to operate and make trading in the EU less costly and burdensome.

The author is National VAT Partner with BDO Binder Hamlyn and National Chairman of the VAT Practitioners Group

## Thoughts on holiday turn to policymaking

NOW is the time, as one astute observer pointed out last week, for policy to be made. Working parties, committees, boards and councils may cease to meet as the rush to holiday hampers ensures inactivity, but people's minds can be recharged.

One area that the relevant policymakers should be considering is that of audit regulation. It did, after all, come about through summer deliberations.

For several years, the afternoons during what used to be known as the Scots ICA summer school, when most people play golf or enjoy other leisurely pursuits, would find the secretaries of the accountancy bodies taking a stroll around the harbour at Crail, or the castle at St Andrews. The issue they were trying to resolve was that of audit regulation.

Their dilemma was obvious. The profession was under pressure from the Government to make the tradition of self-regulation work rather more effectively and take rather more account of public interest. In other words, the profession should actively monitor and discipline its members, rather than wait for a complaint and then respond. With hindsight, the profession should have called the Government's bluff. It should have said that if the Government believed that the days of self-regulation were over, it should say so and then get on with setting up a government body, with legions of civil servants, to monitor the profession. No government would have agreed to yet more costly bureaucracy — and it would have to take the rap whenever anything went wrong. Instead, and given the pressure on it, the profession took the understandable option of setting up its own monitoring system. It has cost a fortune. Inevitably, given the policies of the professional bodies, there has to be one body for the certified accountants and one body for the chartered accountants. And it has brought flak from the firms being monitored, the members who resent the costs, and outside critics who don't think it is a very effective system.

Now we have the publication of the independent report commissioned by the Government into the running of the two monitoring bodies. It underlines the point about the cost — £3.6 million this year, and the economic loss to firms — 3,731 chargeable days lost to coping with visits from the inspectors. It makes sensible points about the philosophy behind the two units' efforts and suggests that the chartered bodies' units should attempt to make shorter visits, and so attempt to visit all firms within five years as the certified unit is intending. Though it has to be said that we are talking chalk and cheese here. The chartered unit, quite rightly, has concentrated on public interest cases. It has made a priority of the 160 firms that have clients who are listed. The report also covers the difficulty of raising audit standards through the threat of regulation, arguing the familiar thesis that auditors are governed by the minimum required, rather than the maximum feasible.

Users of accounts, it says, have no way of judging how much work has been put in. "As the auditors are aware of this lack of knowledge on the part of the readers of financial statements, they know that they cannot easily create a reputation for conducting high quality audits, because there is no mechanism for informing those outside the company that such an audit has been undertaken," the report says. The report also argues that there should be only one monitoring body. But it will be hard to overcome the reasons for the existence of two, it says. "The reason two units exist seems to be more a matter of professional sensitivities than of any logical argument connected with the nature of the monitoring process." In other words, the secretaries of the certified accountants and the chartered accountants are at daggers drawn on this one. But it may be that the secretaries are out of step with members. Just as the broad membership of the certified accountants seems to favour merging with the chartered accountants and gaining access to the title "chartered accountant", while their leaders say that the membership is in favour of no such thing, the squabble over monitoring might be easily resolved.

Certainly, smaller firms do not see too much difference in what they are doing and would have few objections to one body. This is where the policymakers of August should direct their thoughts. There should be one monitoring unit for all auditing firms. There should be peer reviews for the larger ones. And the whole system should be brought out into the open, with the creation of an equivalent to the over-arching US body, the Public Oversight Board.



ROBERT BRUCE

### Ringing the pay changes

EXPECT radical change in the way partners in top accounting firms pay themselves. When Howard Hyman made his highly publicised exit from Price Waterhouse to take up a package rumoured to be worth £400,000 as managing director of Charterhouse, he remarked that remuneration structures at banks were "much more incentivised" than at accountancy firms. Compare that with remarks about PW's remuneration sys-

tem made earlier this year by Ian Brindle, the firm's senior partner. "The system is bureaucratic," he said, "and many partners feel it is inhibiting rather than supportive. It is our job to change it over the next couple of years." You can hear the great clang of a stable door shutting in those words.

### Racing ahead

BEST of luck to Joanna Latimer, a junior trainee chartered

accountant with Ernst & Young in Manchester, who flew to Canada this week to prepare for the Commonwealth Games. Latimer, who is training by barn before a full day's work, is representing Northern Ireland in the 800 metres. "I just love it," says Latimer, who started running competitively at the age of ten and was ranked third in Great Britain last year. She came third in the UK championships running for Sale Harriers, whose coach, Norman Poole, is conveniently based near by.

ers, whose coach, Norman Poole, is conveniently based near by.

### Timely reminder

EMPLOYERS who meet their staff's hotel bills or extra travelling costs during the rail strikes need not fear a tax bill on top, according to a timely reminder from Touche Ross. Because of the regular rail stoppages, many employees whose absence was acceptable

for the first one or two days are now expected to make their way to work. They, in turn, will expect their employers to bear extra travel costs such as taxi fares, along with the odd hotel bill. In normal circumstances, the amount paid is taxable. However, since 1986, the Inland Revenue has taken the view that travel and subsistence costs reimbursed by employers during transport strikes are exempt from any tax charge. Just as well. London hotels have been doing a roaring trade.

JON ASHWORTH

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## PROMS page 30

Peter Maxwell Davies  
scores a hit with the  
world premiere of his  
Fifth Symphony

## ARTS

## THEATRE page 31

The soaring architecture  
of Lincoln Cathedral  
lifts the Mystery Plays  
into another realm

CINEMA: Geoff Brown breaks out the popcorn for *True Lies*, Schwarzenegger's latest fry-up of junk food for the mind

# Arnie marches on your stomach

In Roman arenas massed crowds found noisy amusement watching gladiators hack each other to bits or lions gorge on Christians. Human nature remains much the same, only the venue has changed. Today crowds gather in movie palaces, where Arnold Schwarzenegger blows up a Swiss chateau, reduces a hotel men's room to rubble, and turns numerous associates of the Crimson Jihad — a Middle East terrorist group still imaginary as of yesterday — into human fireballs. The violence may be playful, but we still cheer and applaud.

Summer would not be summer without something like *True Lies*. The usher takes your brain at the door, in exchange for soda and popcorn. Brad Fiedel, a composer unacquainted with the term pianissimo, launches a sonic bombardment. Cast names appear in large letters. Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis, "And Charlton Heston as Spencer Trilby." By now you are so anaesthetised that even this prospect is met with a smile. Here, in short, is the popcorn muncher of the season.

As such, *True Lies* improves on Schwarzenegger's previous romp, *Last Action Hero*, a film so bloated, so piled with in-jokes, that it could scarcely shift off the ground. The nudge-nudge silliness is still apparent throughout these adventures of Harry Tasker, the US government superspy whose wife believes he spends long, dull days selling computers. But at least director James Cameron, the man who created both *Terminator* films, gives his action sequences room to breathe, and puts the colossal budget (more than \$100 million) up on the screen.

Helicopters and Harrier jets chase each other's tails. Buildings disappear in mushroom clouds the size of Hiroshima's. And everything reverberates in Dolby stereo. Planes hurtle and whirl down the auditorium aisles; gunfire ricochets over our heads. There is no escape.

In between the debris, this James Bond for the 1990s proves he can dance a smouldering tango, and tries to keep a civil tongue in the six languages we are told he supposedly speaks. "Sorry, excuse me," he mutters as he terrifies hotel guests by riding a horse through the lobby into a glass lift and on to the roof, pursued by a demon biker. He knows about just causes, too. When his wife, once his true occupation is known, asks if he ever killed anyone, the reply comes pat: "Yes, but they were all bad."

True to the spirit of the exercise, the villains, led by Tia Carrere's sexy antiquities dealer and Art Malik's fanatical terrorist, are drawn with the broadest strokes.

There is no point being seriously offended by the film's treatment of the Middle East. Any connection with the real world was cut when the lights went down.

Impossible, though, to shake off so easily the disquiet stirred by Curtis. In the flabby middle section, the focus shifts from Arnle the globe-hopping spy to Arnle the erring husband. Suspecting his bored wife of infidelity, he puts her under surveillance, hauls her in for interview, and tricks her into a sexual assignation. It is unpleasant watching a woman, especially one of Curtis's fibre, so cruelly duped and demeaned. Even when Curtis's character joins the big boys combating the terrorists, she still lets out the kind of shrieks associated with ladies afraid of mice.

The domestic aspects of *True Lies* stem in part from the film's source material, a French comedy from 1992 called *La Totale*, starring Thierry Lhermitte and Mimi-Mioui. Mixing James Bondage with marital travails might have worked in a light, small-scale movie. But Cameron is better at handling special effects than people; and the production's sheer weight prevents fancy footwork between the script's strands. As a result, two separate films seem to have collided.

At the end of the day, though, *True Lies* does deliver the goods. You get Schwarzenegger, gun cocked, muscles primed, tongue half in cheek (see interview below). You get military hardware and explosions galore. You even get Heston hamming it up behind an eyepatch. It would be unfair, during summer's silly season, to expect any more.

Expectations scarcely ride high during *Baby's Day Out* either. The script's first words are "Boo boo". Most of the others are "Aaahh!", unleashed by three clownish kidnappers as they try to repossess Baby Bink, who wanders unharmed all over Chicago with the nonchalant ease that Sweet Pea showed in the old Popeye cartoons. All physical danger leaves him immune; the kidnappers, however, continually get doberbed, especially in his private.

This is stale, lazy summer fodder. No fresh inspiration entered the head of writer-producer John Hughes: he merely dipped into his *Home Alone* barrel for some scrapings. Setting forth in blue dungarees, the blond little handball player by two identical twins, manoeuvres himself from bus to bag to store to taxi to zoo to building site grinders, all the while prompting crude physical comedy and synthetic tears. In *Baby Bink's* wake, interesting performers like



It looks like a tough situation for Arnold Schwarzenegger, tied up and taunted by the evil, though comely, Tia Carrere. Will he escape? Did *True Lies* cost \$100 million?

Lara Flynn Boyle and Joe Mantegna are reduced to ordinary mugging.

Two sequences particularly stand out. In one the joke is that Mantegna sits blanketed on a park bench, trying to hide from two passing cops the agony caused by Bink and a cigarette lighter singeing his privates. Patrick Read Johnson, the accursed director, prolongs the scene as though it were the funniest invention to hit the screen since Buster Keaton's *The General*. Later, Bink crawls into an old soldier's home, where,

for no decent reason, Eddie Brackman and other veterans serenade him with Irving Berlin's "This Is The Army, Mr Jones". The unfunny comedy of humiliation, plus sentimental treacle of such is *Baby's Day Out* made.

Saturday sees the start of the 48th film festival at Edinburgh, although this is the first time the banners have proclaimed it as the Edinburgh Film Festival. Increased sponsorship has not, however, resulted as yet in any widening of the festival's ambitions.

The obvious plums from the larger European film festivals are dutifully paraded. In the first few days you can see Zhang Yimou's beautiful if conventional *To Live*, Ken Loach's powerful *Ladybird*, *Ladybird*, the Coen brothers' *The Hudsucker Proxy* and Australia's likeable camp extravaganza *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. But a festival purely built out of other festivals' choices is not one to inspire much enthusiasm, even when fortified with bottles of the sponsors' liquor.

The less obvious titles do surface

from time to time. Steve James's well-regarded *Hoop Dreams*, on Sunday, promises nearly three hours of American college kids dreaming of basketball glory. There are new British features and shorts, including a sneak preview on August 20 of *Priest*, Antonia Bird's follow-up to *Safe*, her strident film about kids in London.

Much of the best fun at the festival might come from the two retrospectives. One salutes Shohei Imamura, the Japanese maverick whose fascination with oddities of human behaviour has resulted in

unsettling films like *The Pornographer*, *The Insect Woman* and his most recent British release, *Black Rain*.

The other is Andre De Toth, the Hungarian-born director who never let the lack of an eye stop him directing Hollywood's 3-D classic, *House of Wax*. When the scripts allowed, De Toth gave his thrillers and westerns a distinctively mean, moody edge; and if Edinburgh's festival reawakens Britain to the merits of films like *The Pitfall* and *Dark Waters*, it will have served a good purpose after all.

## Killer for the whole family

Everybody loves Arnold Schwarzenegger. Fans of action movies love him because, face it, few stars come more action-packed. Lovers of goofy comedies love him because he is a sort of cute giant. Hollywood studios love him because his movies make money and because Arnle is not too proud to hustle from this continent to that — on his own Gulfstream jet — yapping to journalists to promote his latest film. He descended on London on Tuesday, spent two days chatting his way through an interview timetable more complicated than the first round at Wimbledon, and flew off last night to Paris. Germany comes next.

Republicans love Arnle because Arnle loves the Republic and because he is always being tipped to run, like Ronald Reagan before him, for Governor of California (but not just yet, because "I am having such a great time I don't know if this is the right time to make a change. I would be a fool if I did").

Democrats love him because he married into the Kennedy via John Kennedy's niece, NBC television presenter Maria Shriver. Newly landed immigrants in the Bronx love him because he represents the American Dream. An Austrian who arrived in 1968 unable to speak English now commands \$15 million a film; America's newest wave of Ellis Islanders thinks to itself, hey, if Arnle can make it — and as an actor — this must be the promised land.

And, when you meet him, well, you love him too, not just because he's a nice guy, and smart enough to have worked out how to pump the Hollywood system, but because he's bigger than you are. The first thing you notice about Arnle is

Arnold Schwarzenegger is all man, all right. All caring, sharing, proud of his kids man. Joe Joseph is charmed

that the fat Havana cigar he is twirling in his fingers is smaller than his fingers. His neck is as thick as a mortadella. Remember those paintings by Giuseppe Arcimboldo, the 16th-century Milanese artist, in which the various features of people's faces turn out, if you look more closely, to be carrots or plums? Well, Schwarzenegger looks like his body is a jigsaw of hams.

Sitting in his suite in London's Dorchester hotel he is wearing a combat jacket plugging *True Lies*, a good tan and a stern look. We have barely entered the room — journalists have to interview

In this movie we wanted to look at what goes on in the 1990s, look at work versus family

him three at a time — when Arnold turns to the *Daily Mail* man and, with mock menace, snarls: "OK, sit down and relax. You talk too tense."

Outside the hotel, the scene is even more tense, with a pin-striped man from the Dorchester warning paparazzi that whoever it was who threatened one of the stars' drivers with a baseball bat (Schwarzenegger's *True Lies* co-stars Jamie Lee Curtis and Tom Arnold, as well as director James Cameron, are also inside the hotel, rotating the hacks between themselves like a game of human pass-the-

parcel) will be reported to the CID if he tries that again. The Dorchester man adds that when the stars emerge for lunch the photographers had better behave. If they want to cut up rough, he warns them, then the Dorchester can cut up rough too. "You play the game," he snaps, "and we'll play the game."

Startled onlookers and hotel guests gawping at this doorstep scene and thinking that it looked just a little hotter than they were used to would get a really big surprise if they ever made it to a screening of *True Lies*. With only slightly more provocation, Schwarzenegger

would have machine-gunned six dozen troublesome foes and maybe even climbed into the cockpit of a Harrier jump jet, lifted it up to the 72nd storey of a skyscraper and started firing straight through the plate glass.

What am I saying? That's exactly what he does do in the film. In *True Lies* Schwarzenegger becomes James Bond with attitude, from the very first scene when, as the spy Harry Tasker, he emerges from an ice-covered Swiss lake, slips into a chateau, slips out of his wet suit to reveal a tuxedo, and then slips discreetly into a busy bedroom.

Schwarzenegger has proved he can make money for studios that put him in comedies — *Kindergarten Cop*, *Twins* — and also for studios that hand him a licence to kill. But in *True Lies* there is something for everyone. Like a cinematic box of Milk Tray.

Has Arnle mellowed? Does he want us to take him seriously, something more than just a pistol-packing beefcake? Yup. "In the 1980s it was more straightforward action movies. It was craziness from the beginning to the end. In this movie we wanted to look at what goes on in the 1990s, work versus family."

Now that he has three young Schwarzeneggers, Arnle is keen on families: "If you're a normal human being you can only feel fulfilled if you're working and also if you've got a good family life. Just yesterday I went to the White House," he adds, with maybe not quite enough no-big-deal nonchalance, "because my father-in-law [Sargent Shriver, head of the Peace Corps under President Kennedy] got the Medal of Freedom. There were six or so other people there and that what struck me was that they all had their families with them. And they all said they couldn't have made it without the help of their families. Without the support of the family, nobody can achieve great things."

There is no mistaking Schwarzenegger's commitment to his own family. He takes his kids to the set when he can, although he makes sure they never spot a gun or see someone trying to kill their daddy. "Nobody can just say I make action movies," he says. "Now that I have a family I want to make more movies for the family."

But he gets a little tetchy



After playing a kindergarten cop and before playing a woman, Arnold Schwarzenegger looks for a punk to, like, make his day

when asked if the people who do see his action movies grow more violent. "I can't tell you honestly if they do or they don't, because I haven't done any of that research. But to say that society is violent and it's because of the movies is nonsense."

His view is that society is going to hell because of the breakdown of the family. So he is asked if the emotional and romantic sex scenes in *True Lies*, and his role in his next film, *Junior* — in which Schwarzenegger dresses up as a pregnant woman — mean that he is identifying with his feminine side. "When you're a stud like myself," Arnle says,

"and you're so gutsy, and ballsy, you can communicate with your feminine side. I don't have any hangups about it."

The tone is jesting, but Schwarzenegger is clearly thrilled that he is building a reputation for doing press-ups in a double bed rather than in a gym. He says directors who would not have rated him for a romantic lead are now thinking again after seeing him tango in the ballroom and the bedroom with Curtis in *True Lies*. "I've got six scripts lying on my desk that are love stories. People see a new side of you."

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## TELEVISION REVIEW

## An offal trio

Anybody who tuned into last night's play on BBC2 because its author, Andrew Davies, was the adapter of *Middlemarch* will probably still be overdosing on the smelling salts this morning. In spite of its title, *A Few Short Journeys of the Heart* was most emphatically not about an earnest Victorian lady on emotional safari in rural England. It was more like a collaboration between Franz Kafka, Ian McEwan and Hugh Hefner; or so I felt after the scene in which a famous English novelist explored a starstruck young woman's body with a sextant, then ejaculated red mince all over their hotel bedroom.

There were several such climaxes, if you'll forgive the word, in the play; but I suspect that most people will have found its narrative complexities more offputting. There was a moment when Character A seemed to be imagining he was Character B, and Character B was writing a screenplay about Character C. That all three were played by the excellent David Troughton, and Troughton sometimes appeared in more than one guise in the same scene, made the story more entertaining but no less confusing.

Still, the freakishness was by no means purposeless. This was, after all, an attempt to dig into the repressed parts of Alan Dore, a sedate businessman who, we were informed in voice-over, "did not feel himself well versed in women", and "was no longer sure of what it was to be him".

Cut from Troughton as Dore to Troughton as Ron

Rust, a messy, loutish and pretty unsuccessful screenwriter, to Troughton as St John Coke, a winningly attenuated novelist unwillingly scripting a film about Leonardo da Vinci. Who had created whom, and which was dreaming which, may not always have been clear; but both Coke and Rust were enamoured of a secretary called Colette. And Saira Todd's demure Colette turned out to be Dore's daughter.

Incest, homosexuality, masturbatory fantasies: either directly or indirectly, Dore parook of them all. He or his alter ego also dreamt up a gentlemanly German killer, a lubricious whore in a Jermyn Street barbers, a sexually voracious American woman in furs, and Tim Bone, a young actor auditioning for the role of Leonardo. Thanks to Ben Chaplin's performance in the last role — bluster ineptly camouflaging intensifying insecurity — this part of the play was surely funny enough to please even those who balked at the naughty bits.

We left Dore obtaining sexual relief at Milton Keynes station, Rust bringing a sex-shop dummy from Germany to England, and Coke nowhere very clear. "That's the sickest piece of gratuitous filth I've ever heard," said Rust and Coke's literary agent, a steely cynic nicely played by Susan Fleetwood. Well, maybe, except for that "gratuitous". If a dramatist shows a civilised man acknowledging his own emotional offal, he can hardly pretend it smells of roses.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



## LONDON

**SOHNI MAHRAW** Epic Purgatory love story, performed on the banks of the Thames. Dancers, players and musicians float past on boats and giant water lilies in the Waterman's major summer event.

**BBC HENRY WOOD PROMS:** The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra returns to the Proms tonight for a mixed programme of two classical works and two from the 20th century. Iona Brown conducts Mozart, Schoenberg, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 01 380 8212. Tonight, 8pm.

**HEADING FOR EDINBURGH '94** Last chance to sneak a peek at some of the acts on their way north next week. Tonight's programme starts off with a "jazzy" concert from the Trio and follows on with Acropolis. Steven Berkoff's play observations on a group of film-makers during the making of a biopic about Look on Us with Love. 7pm. On Saturday, New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 01 704 0023. Tonight, 7pm and 8.30pm.

## ELSEWHERE

**CHICHESTER** Lisa Farnell directs a good cast in Chichester's Three Sisters, the final production of the 1984 season.

**LE CID** Corneille's drama of honour and revenge, finely played by Jonathan Kent. Excellent playing by Duncan Bell and Susan Lynch. Royal National Theatre, National (Cottesloe), South Bank SE1 01 325 2323. Tonight, Mon, 7.30pm. Today and Sat, 2.30pm.

**PATSY CUNE** Fifty Country and Gospel songs from the hit film and two from her new album. Theatre Royal, Whitehall, SW1 01 330 1735. Mon-Thurs, 8pm. Fri and Sat, 5.30 and 8.30pm.

**THE COUNTRY WIFE** Max Stafford-Cook's stern vision of the harsh trials of Restoration immorality. Some laughs included. P.R. Salsbery Centre, EC2 01 638 8891. Today, 2pm and 7.15pm.

**THE CRYPTOPHAGM** Lindsay Duncan and Eddie Izzard in Marnet's play about cryptic adult relationships. Tonight, 8pm. Tomorrow, 2.30pm and 8pm.

**GLEN GARRY GLEN ROSS** James Bolam and Ron Cook lead the cast in Marnet's brilliant comedy about the cut-throat world of Florida real-estate salesmen. Sam Mendes directs. Deodar Warehouse, Earlsdon Street, WC2 01 867 1150. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm. Sun, 3pm and 5pm.

**JUNGLE AND HYDE** The Flying Karamazov Brothers defy probability with their flying lion and other acts. They're funny too. Catterline, Piccadilly Circus, W1 839 4488. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Sun, 3pm and 5pm. Unit, 5pm.

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## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

With Greg Hicks as Vanishing Point. Julie St. John, Lucy Treagus and Susan Sylvester. Minerva, Oaklands Park, 0203 781312. Prewire, 7.45pm. Sat, 2.30pm. Sun, 2.30pm. Tomorrow, 2.30pm. Unit, 2.30pm.

**BIRMINGHAM** A welcome return for the choir of Scotland's young musicians, the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. Jun'chi Holman conducts a programme of Mendelssohn's The Fairies, Beethoven's Piano Concerto and Mahler's Symphony No. 4. Symphony Hall, Broad Street, 021 212 5333. Tonight, 8pm.

**HARROGATE** The International Festival ends a magnificent season with performances from the sensational young pianist Barry Douglas and the Philharmonia Orchestra. Tonight's recital programme includes works from Schubert, Debussy, Brahms, Schumann and other world premiere of John McCabe's Tenebris. Matthea Barnet conducts the Philharmonia tomorrow for a gala programme of Beethoven. Box Office: Royal Baths, 0423 595757. Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm.

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## OXFORD AND BRISTOL

A quick recap for some "family" theatre opening this week. Oxford Stage Company returns to home ground with a autumn tour of Romeo and Juliet. John Parfitt directs. Mainville, Rodgers and Hammerstein's glorious Old-fashioned legends in national tour after opening in Plymouth. New dance routines have been added for the first time, choreographed by Lar Lubovitch and produced by Christopher Bruce. Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford 01 866 788000. Mon-Thurs and Sat, 7.30pm; Fri, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Unit Aug 12. Hippodrome, St Augustine's Parade, Bristol 01 272 29444. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Unit Sept 10.

## LONDON GALLERIES

**Barbican** Who's Looking at the Family? (01 438 4141). British Museum: New Egyptian Art. Egyptian Galleries: Modern Japanese Prints. 1912-1989. (01 638 1555). Courtauld: French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings. 1873-1928. Hayward: The Epic and the Everyday photographs from Europe and America 1912-1928. National Gallery: Friedrich to Holder. A Romantic Tradition (01 389 1785). National Portrait Gallery: Edwardian Women Photographers. (01 300 0000). Royal Academy: Summer Exhibition, final week (01 438 1438). Tate: 1913. William Blake (01 477 8000). V & A: Pugin Gothic Passion, the Ironwork Gallery (01 438 8800).

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre activity in London

**Harlow** Full, returns only. Some seats available. **Seas at all prices**

**Lyric** King Street, W6 01 741 2311. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 4pm. 5.30 and 8.30pm.

**LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN** Another day, another play. Fine acting from Francesca Annis's mother with a cast of other notable actors.

**THE CRYPTOPHAGM** Lindsay Duncan and Eddie Izzard in Marnet's play about cryptic adult relationships. Tonight, 8pm. Tomorrow, 2.30pm and 8pm.

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## CONCERTS: Triumph for a watershed; young chamber music; a legend returns for his mother

## Davies finds room to breathe life



Peter Maxwell Davies — in rehearsal (left) and at home in Orkney, inspiration for much of his work — adds to his laurels with his Fifth Symphony

As befits the significance of its number, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' Fifth Symphony, heard for the first time in Tuesday night's Prom when the composer himself conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra, can be counted as one of his most impressive works. Its most obvious echo is of Sibelius, first because, like that composer's Seventh Symphony, it is one movement, but also because it has the same sense of pregnancy, and a vision of a vastness.

But because the nature of the music so often changes — the score is peppered with double barlines, contrasts of tempo, dynamic and texture — an element of variation is suggested. Indeed it turns out that two plain-chants from the *Liber Usualis*, "Haec dies" and "Domine audivi", provide hidden sources, the same ones that stand behind Davies' recent school

orchestra piece *Chet Moss*, also quoted in this symphony. The choice of chants already suggests a fundamental duality: for one text is celebration, the other humble invocation. Both are subjected to Davies' complex methods of magic-square transformations. In any case the double barlines are deceptive, for the sections they enclose are not self-contained. As Davies has made clear, there is a sense that while one music occupies the heard foreground, other musics continue unattended in the background.

All that sounds terrifically convoluted, but the truth is that the symphony has a wonderful sense of naturalness about it. Davies has spoken of nostalgia for childhood affecting the piece (hence the *Chet Moss* references), and at times one does sense a certain calm,

but there is no dilution of argument, no descent into self-indulgence. This is a tough, uncompromising piece, as symphonies are supposed to be. It takes its material from one level to another, as symphonies are supposed to do. It challenges the orchestra severely, although it also presents the listener with plenty of clear hooks, such as the recurrent fast upward scales in the brass section that flash across the texture like shooting stars, the little doleful sighs on piccolo and flute, the jagged-rhythmic unison string writing, or the flexatone and crotales that recall sounds familiar from Davies' music-theatre pieces of the 1960s and 1970s. The ending, both a logical rounding off and a pointer to somewhere else, is slow, quiet and poignant.

ly enough to compensate for their bitty effect on the first half of the programme. Tippet's Fantasia Concertante, directed this time by Iona Brown as one of the soloists, lost sight of its structural purpose at one point and never really recovered it. The performance of Mozart's little 5-minute



EDINBURGH GALLERIES: John Russell Taylor begins his survey of this year's Festival exhibitions

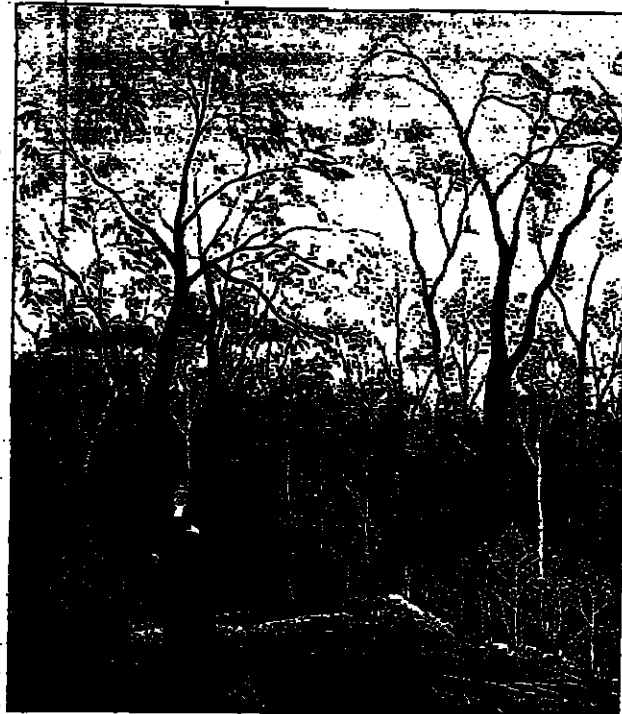
# Adventures in several landscapes

For once Scotland and England seem to be in step. The two recurrent preoccupations of the London art world this spring and early summer seem to have been with German Romanticism and the legacy of French Impressionism. The two principal Edinburgh Festival shows of the Scottish National Galleries are *The Romantic Spirit in German Art 1790-1990* and *Monet to Matisse: Landscape Painting in France 1874-1914*.

The "Romantic Spirit", though it covers most of the same ground as the related shows at the British Museum and the National Gallery in London, is much more extensive and ambitious than either. For one thing, the period dealt with is much longer. For another the very form of the title proposes a programme. Is there such a thing as a definable "spirit" present continuously in German art throughout the past 200 years? If there is, does it make any sense to describe it as "Romantic"?

The problem strikes almost immediately. Close to several paintings by Caspar David Friedrich, there hangs a fanciful medieval-looking landscape by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The vast Gothic cathedral outlined against an exquisitely evoked sunset sky immediately resembles similar effects in Friedrich's work. Yet Schinkel is primarily known as the neo-Classical architect par excellence, and in the next gallery there are several of his most severely neo-Classical Hellenic designs for buildings. Are they Romantic? Apparently so, since they come under the rubric of "Utopias of the Past", escape into which is said to be a typical Romantic trait.

Among other typical Romantic traits is claimed to be



Henri Rousseau's *In the Forest*, from the survey of French landscape painting, 1874-1914 (left), and Caspar David Friedrich's *Two Men Looking at the Moon*, from "The Romantic Spirit in German Art"

the presentation of man as a (probably anguished) loner. Except, of course, that the "friendship portrait", double or multiple, was also remarkably common in German Romantic art of the early 19th century. Sentimental and idealised masculine friendship being also characteristic of the Romantics. If they craved individual identity, they also craved liberty, yet an excessive regard for the imagined past also led to the out-of-hand rejection of such bourgeois modern notions as parliamentary democracy and citizen kings.

Romanticism, it soon becomes apparent, is a catch-all term which can mean anything or nothing. The exhibit is, apparently, consistent programme is something of an illusion. However, an exhibit

can do more than merely illustrate an academic thesis. It can introduce visitors to unfamiliar art, it can enlighten, it can offer local illumination, even if its grand design leaves much to be desired.

All of these things "The Romantic Spirit" does. In general we are not so familiar in Britain with German (or rather Germanic) art of the 19th century. Friedrich has been covered in a reasonable number of exhibitions. Russett, who, despite his towering imagination was not really a very good painter, has perhaps because of his London years received more than his due. But what of Philipp Otto Runge, creator of extraordinary esoteric patterns of angelic spirits, who tend to look as though they are grouping to alight on a head of a pin, and

of fierce, unsentimental portraits of infants as dangerous as Blake's babes hatching revolution in their cradles. And until the current show of German prints from the age of Goethe at the British Museum, how many here were familiar with the dense and obsessive vegetable extravaganzas of Carl Wilhelm Kolbe?

Even apart from such isolated revelations, the show does manage to suggest some connections. Often not very original ones: many have remarked on the surrealist anticipations of Max Klinger's series of prints, *The Clow*, or seen the Symbolist decadence as what Mario Praz called it — the Romantic Agony. The Symbolist beginnings of Ex-

pressionism, not to mention Paul Klee, are reasonably, underlined here, and we are presented with some real rarities, such as the succession of extraordinary pencil pages from Franz Marc's *Notebook Of The Field*.

The organisers prove, unfortunately, equally able to fudge connections when it suits their purpose. They deserve brownie points for not, as some similar shows have done, leaving Nazi art out altogether. But obviously they find its brand of Romanticism deeply embarrassing and when explaining the mystically-connected abstraction rampant in postwar Germany come up with the astonishing formulation that it manifests "a desire to return to a pure uncontaminated past, before German art had become debased by the

Nazis." Has it occurred to no one that the Nazis, in virtually identical terms, thought they were purifying art by returning to an uncontaminated past? Contamination and purity are clearly in the eye of the beholder.

The French landscape show at the National Gallery of Scotland tackles something much simpler. Confining the show to a genre, landscape painting: a period, 1874-1914; and a country, France — all factual criteria — its devisers come up with the most amazing novelties and rarities.

Calling the show "Monet to Matisse" implies that it will be another tramp along the well-trodden "high road of modern art", from Impressionism to Post-Impressionism to Fauvism to Cubism. This route is certainly indicated, but it emerges as

only one of several ways through the woods.

We also encounter realist landscape. Symbolist landscape, the traditional "history painting" in which something mythical is tucked away in a wide expanse of landscape. If that sounds very retrogressive, then it must be noted that some very unexpected artists — from Gustav Moreau to Vallotton and Denis to René Ménard — thought otherwise.

There are telling early paintings by Picasso and Gleizes to show how landscape was at the root of analytical Cubism. There are glittering pointillist pieces by Seurat and Signac. And there are more obscure artists, who on this showing deserve further exploration. Above all, this is an

intensely enjoyable show. If the Romantic spirit in German art, at least, seems deeply involved with pain and anguish, the French landscape between Monet and Matisse offers the perfect antidote of sense and sensuality.

● The Romantic Spirit in German Art 1790-1990 at the Royal Scottish Academy, The Mount, Edinburgh and the FruitMarket Gallery, Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm, until September 7; during Festival Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-6pm. Admission, £3, concessions £1.50

● Monet to Matisse at the National Gallery of Scotland, The Mount, Edinburgh, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, until October 23. During Festival: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-6pm. Admission £4, concessions £2. Inquiries on all exhibitions 031-556921

THEATRE: A British debut for Wendy Wasserstein; the Lincoln Mystery Plays; Shakespeare in Tunbridge Wells

## Lost over the Atlantic



Maureen Lipman, Janet Suzman and Lynda Bellingham as the Rosensweig sisters

This belatedly introduces London to Wendy Wasserstein, who won both the Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for her *Heidi Chronicles* and is probably as well known in her native New York as Gray or Frayn are here. But maybe the problem is just that Gray and Frayn, preoccupied as they sometimes are with issues of Englishness, don't always travel too far too well. *The Sisters Rosensweig* is an entertaining piece and brings a fine cast to Greenwich, but I cannot have been alone in looking at the solemn Wasp faces round me and wondering what an American comedy so centrally about Jewishness was doing in Greenwich in the first place.

Reference after reference, joke after joke, seemed to pass the first-night audience by. There is, for instance, a funny passage about an American husband who gives up law to write detective novels, dressing in a trench coat and rolling until dawn to give himself authenticity. "He could have been Raymond Chandler if only he hadn't been born in Scarsdale," mopes his wife. And, even though she was played by the wonderful Maureen Lipman, chuckles came from few. Scarsdale means little in SE10.

Maybe Michael Blake-More's production will find a more responsive audience if it moves to the West End, as it

### The Sisters Rosensweig Greenwich

should. Wasserstein is not, after all, an insular writer. Her subject is not only the loss of Jewish identity but also the difficulty of attaining any identity at all in a rootless world. As if to emphasise this, she has brought her three Brooklyn-born sisters for a reunion in a posh house in our own Holland Park. There they briefly cluster together, as unsatisfied as their counterparts in Chekhov.

That is a parallel they themselves draw and Wasserstein emphasises by setting her play at the time of the abortive coup against Gorbachev. Even in Moscow, she seems to be saying, there is late-20th-century confusion. The fate of Fieni Rosensweig (Lynda Bellingham), in love with a nice but worryingly bisexual British theatre director (Brian Protheroe), is to go on wandering the globe, penning travel articles. That of Lipman's bizarrely named Gorgeous is to live in middle-class poverty in New Jersey, clinging to the values and the vestiges of the religion the sisters' mother taught them.

The fate of Sara (Janet Suzman) is more complex. It is her house and she is the main

character: a high-flying banker divorced from her second husband and used to putting the claims of career above those of love, especially when these are represented by Wasserstein's somewhat exaggerated idea of a snooty Tory MP (Robert East). "I can't tell you what a comfort it is to live in a country where feelings are openly repressed," she says, and thinks she means it.

But then, in a strong comic scene, a slightly unsophisticated American furrier (Larry Lamb), in Europe to investigate the new nationalism and the old anti-Semitism, blunders into her cool, white living room, invites himself to her birthday dinner, and starts playing her CDs.

Her rediscovery of her sexuality and her Jewishness is too wary and well-played to be sentimental. Indeed, Suzman gives a superb performance, her very shoulders exuding a mix of the uptight, sad and needy. And when the tension slackens, as it sometimes does, Lipman is usually on hand to babble out her philosophy, which is roughly that good Jewish girls should marry furriers, groom themselves carefully, and live in New Jersey. The play displays skill, warmth and humour — but have we the internationalism to embrace it?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

The Mystery plays, in this case the N-Town cycle first revived in 1978, are epic and homely. In Lincoln Cathedral, God is resplendent as the sun, and none too pleased with gold-faced Adam and Eve down below. Gabriel (female) would make a dazzling bishop.

Coming down to earth, some early Christians have plainly been pilfering curtains from Galilean guest houses and running up cheap robes on the side. Maybe Keith Ramsay's production has elements of the dreaded village hall drama, but the soaring architecture lifts the evening towards another realm.

Conversely, the church feels once more like a haven for community activity, audience included. You could end up going to hell, as did the Mayor, pulled from pride of place in the front row. Acoustically, the cathedral plays tricks, the dialogue might as well be in 16th-century English, which I'd love to hear, for all you can make out when the actors are away up the aisle. Luckily we all know the story so it hardly matters, though

## Lessons brought to life

Mystery Plays Lincoln Cathedral

this cycle also wanders intriguingly off the beaten biblical track. The early music is a joy, from an angelic voice in space to Herod's crumblings, like bees with flu. One cannot praise the amateur acting to the skies. Satan, a gay goth manqué, lacks slither. But overweight, waddling flounchy Herod (Tony Raby) is exuberantly droll. Some unforgettable theatrical moments are achieved by the simplest of means: Mary at the annunciation in a blaze of light refracted from mirrors brighter than the spheres; an actual baby in Mary's arms

who didn't make a squeak when approached by men with big sticks. Vitriolically icy Death (breath-taking Karen Harrison) pointing a gaunt finger slowly along the ranks of spectators, chilled me to the bone.

Would that had been the end. Baby Jesus grows up to be something of a bore. The snippets of Christ's phenomenal life are like the reminiscences of an acquaintance who wasn't quite in on the action. An adulterous woman doesn't get stoned, a sinner is permitted to pour oil on sacred feet and, lo and behold, it's the last supper already.

Professional actor Bill Britten's Christ could certainly be a carpenter's lad but there is no real sense of a tower of spirituality burning within. He comes into his own at the crucifixion, however. Witnessing a man being hammered to a cross is like being punched in the face by reality and this Christ dies in agony, sweating and racked by muscular spasms as his flesh and blood body gives up the ghost.

KATE BASSETT

## Not enough to laugh about

A Midsummer Night's Dream Broomhill

If *A Dream* leaves a feeling of regret that the lovers have been united, an essential element in the production has been neglected. Perhaps the essential element because, without it, who cares if Oberon gets his wish, for Indian boy and whether or not the Nine Men's Morris will be drained of mud.

When the wedding festivities draw to a close the three mortal couples set off for their nuptial beds with keen expressions, but for how long will the young men tolerate their shrewish wives? Anyone planning Nine Men's Morris festivals would do well to ensure against the return of bad weather.

"What fools these mortals be," Puck says, but this is an outsider's perception. We need to feel that in loving one another they are doing the proper thing. The difficulty some members of Mark Dornford-May's cast put in the way of our rooting for their victory is made the stranger by his unscripted introduction of Cupid at the very start of the

play. The mischievous lad clambers out of a liner bin (don't ask me why) to shoot an arrow at the vast shower curtain that lands across the stage. A bluish liquid trickles down its folds and we must assume that this is the arrow Oberon watched fall on the flower that "maiden call low-ideness," turning its sap purple.

Dimly beyond the curtain we see Theseus's war with the Amazons turn into an engagement party, and he and Hippolyta step forward to get the familiar play going. Perhaps what Hermia and Helena are doing, when they suggest agitation by flapping their arms like fledgling birds, is trying to fly in the air like Cupids. A more useful tactic would have been to persuade them to soften their voices and take more time with the verse.

Likewise Titania, whose manner recalls a blue stocking lecturer.

The costumes are Shakespearean Modern, which means coloured frockcoats for the older men, close-fitting trouser suits for women. Bottom is played by Benjamin Luxon, who once sang the role of Demetrius in the opera. Britten based on the play. From next week the opera will alternate with the Shakespeare, though without Luxon. In his first stage role he gives Bottom a mellow, friendly presence, with lots of vibrato on the longer vowels. It is good to see a lifelike ass's head.

The nearest acting and clearest speaking come from Sean Francis as Lysander, using smiles and hand gestures closely related to the sense of what he says, and from Roger Martin's Puck, doubling up with mirth at every mention of Bottom's long ears. Elsewhere there is little laughter in a production that has not found its way into the play's mystery.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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## In transit to extinction

Elaine Feinstein

BLACK MILK  
By David Hartnett  
Cape, £9.99 pbk original

Towards the end of his short life, the Romanian-born German Jewish poet Paul Celan, whose poem *Todesfuge* ("Death Fugue") gives this novel its title, began to refuse anthologists permission to reprint his most celebrated poem, as if the making of lyric beauty out of so much murderous horror had come to seem blasphemous to him. Any artist tempted to work with such history, will be sobered by considerations that have little to do with aesthetics.

It is arguable that any fiction written about the working of Hitler's camps is exploitative alongside Primo Levi's absolute purity of witness. And yet a disaster of such magnitude cannot be kept off-limits for the human imagination.

David Hartnett has used similar material before, in poems that make use of Kovno ghetto memoirs, for instance,



Hartnett: impressive

and he is clearly well-read in the literature of eastern Europe. The barrel organ music from a fairground just beyond the wire of the ghetto in this novel recalls a terrifying poem of the Polish poet, Czesław Miłosz.

*Black Milk* is Hartnett's first novel and very much the novel of a poet: he is concerned with texture more than structure, detail more than narrative. We register what has happened through images: a single red high-heeled shoe lying in a gutter, the buckle tarnished by rain; a silver cigarette-case sewn into the lining of a coat. Inner voices break across one another jaggedly, sometimes paragraph by paragraph; the reader has to learn whose track of thought is being overheard.

Hartnett has invented a fictional transit camp somewhere in Eastern Europe where deportees are forced to live behind ghetto wire as they wait their turn for selection: the main characters are haunted by Vienna's First District, with its smart shops, cafés on the Kärntner Strasse, marble tables, and chocolate scones; a city evoked with almost as much solidity as the squalor in which they are imprisoned.

There is Joseph, with his abandoned thesis on the 16th-century Rabinic writer, Isaac Luria, who is now census and

registration officer for the *Judenrat*, and keeps a secret archive of everything that happens in the ghetto; Alicia, his one-time lover, who has brought her small family into his jurisdiction; Chaim, her resentful son who blames his mother for his father's disappearance; and Mendel, a mystic who clings to his prayer shawl and beard, and finds signs in all things for his conviction that the time of the Messiah is at hand. There is also the mad but prescient Uncle Henryk.

In this transport depot the process of selection for the extermination camps is slow, and there is time for the sick to die and adolescent sexual love to develop. Events counterpoint the Jewish liturgical calendar: a resettlement coincides with Passover, and the ceremony that celebrates the Exodus from Egypt has to be understood against deportations that will mean the death of thousands.

Two moments are especially memorable. The frightening sound of mechanised vehicles and singing inside a hushed ghetto where all transport has been horsedrawn, on the night before an *Aktion* is to begin; and the making of a propaganda film in which the starving inhabitants of the ghetto are dressed in rich clothes, placed before tables of food they are not allowed to eat, and compelled to perform acts of cruelty towards one another.

One reservation must be made. Too many of the characters, even those from westernised Vienna, seem to be knowledgeable about and drawn to the superstitions of the Cabbalah. It is not only Mendel the Hasid who is soaked in the thoughts of Shabbetai Zevi and Jacob Frank. In their different ways, Henryk, Alicia, and even Chaim are tempted to respond, while the westernised Josef, member of the *Judenrat*, was a student of the Lurianic mysteries himself before he abandoned them for the study of Law.

This would be disproportionate even among a less assimilated group and may arise because Hartnett himself seems close at times to accepting Mendel's dubious proposition that God works through a fusion of the sacred and the profane. It is not a comfort I would want to share. Nevertheless, this is an impressive first novel.

Elaine Feinstein's latest novel, *Dreamers* (Macmillan), was reviewed in *The Times* by Stella Tillyard on July 4.

## Language, logic and the case for truth

Walter Ellis

VALUES  
Collapse and Cure  
By Lord Hailsham  
HarperCollins, £12.99



Hailsham: blames logical positivists for his tristesse

rise of Hitler, and during the notorious Oxford by-election of 1938 was associated with Appeasement. He then fought the Germans, bravely, in North Africa, only to watch democracy's triumph all but eclipsed by the spread of Stalinism, with its barbarism and pathological antipathy to Western values.

He was in government for many years, from the 1950s through to the high-water-mark of Thatcherism, and during his career helped provide ever Britain's decline in the world. The rise of unemployment and homelessness, the weakening of our currency, our marginalisation in Europe: all of these "achievements" were realised during a time dominated by conservatism, with Hailsham close to or at the heart of things.

Yet only now does he become depressed. Could it not

be that, in his old age, he is in fact frustrated by his powerlessness — novel for him — to do anything about the situation? He perceives that "we have lost our sense of values", but assumes no part of the blame. Instead, in 177 densely argued pages, presented in a facsimile of his own copperplate, he seeks out the enemy within and finds it in, of all camps, the Vienna Circle and its disciples.

His contention is that the logical positivists, with their belief that unverifiable propositions — including, of course, moral assertions — are nonsense, have somehow infected the modern world, draining it of "natural morality" (the Tao) and transforming centuries of humanistic progress into political and economic nihilism.

So what does Hailsham stand for? It is, he says,

among his strongest impulses to defend the weak against the strong and the unpopular against the popular. He laments the decline of individual social responsibility, seeing "no coherent philosophy" behind the Welfare State. He would like to see an international equivalent of "the King's Peace". But, most of all, he wishes to see a general restoration of belief in "the good, the right, the beautiful, the honourable, and even the true".

As one would expect of a QC and Fellow of All Souls, with a First in Mods and Greats from Oxford, Hailsham's arguments are incisive and, at times, persuasive. He watches our century's moral drift with pained objectivity, lamenting the falling-off in religious conviction, with its moral absolutes, but careful not to confuse faith with good intent.

Along the way, he provides those of us who lack his high academic provenance with an admirable primer in modern philosophy. His powers of observation and analysis are manifestly not dimmed by age, and his prose style is

remarkable for its logic and clarity. One could not imagine any member of the present government, with the possible exception of William Waldegrave, attempting such an exercise. Denis Healey could do it (though with more obvious vanity), as could Enoch Powell. But the intellectual pygmyism of the modern House of Commons would quite simply not be up to the task. That is our loss.

Hailsham seems sometimes to tilt at windmills as he blames the (surely long-discredited) logical positivists for his *fin de siècle* tristesse. Evil and chaos has been all around him throughout his lifetime, and it is probably no worse now than in 1940. His heart, though, remains in the right place and is firmly bonded to his intelligence. "For ever," he writes, "truth is better than falsehood, kindness than brutality, virtue than vice, beauty than ugliness." His values, at least, are constant.

Walter Ellis's book, *The Oxford Conspiracy*, will be published by Michael Joseph next month.

## Colleen meets her nemesis

Rachel Cusk is persuaded by a disturbing tale of a young girl lost in the urban desert

Making a fiction out of the kind of horror-story one might read about in a newspaper is hard to do without leaving fingerprints. Violent vignettes of modern alienation can evoke the subliminal disturbance in literature that they cause in life, but to explore fully one such incident in a novel would seem to require either a departure from the truth or a willingness to dispose of a "literary" consciousness to guide it.

Felicia's Journey chooses the latter course, and is a book so notable for its absence of narrative intervention that the drift of the story towards its conclusion becomes genuinely frightening. In a detective novel this might be what one pays for. But in a work of emotional and psychological truth it is unusual: and to accomplish this, while drawing a meaningful paradigm of innocence and evil in modern society, is still more so.

The novel tells the story of a plain Irish girl, a girl who really consists of nothing but the few ideas that have been put into her head — Catholicism, romantic love, family ties — and who violates them all in a brief affair with a local labourer returned to Ireland on holiday. Having discovered she is pregnant, she flees to England to search for the errant Johnny, who has merely told her that he works in a lawn-mower factory in a city north of Birmingham.

The protracted symbolic contrast between the tight, archaic stronghold of working-class Irish community life and the anonymity of a post-modern urban centre in the Midlands is unsparingly rendered. The force of this disparity hints at a cultural catastrophe made personal when the unsuspecting Felicia meets Mr Hilditch, a deranged collector of vagrant young women.

Felicia's Journey — the journey of a pregnant Catholic girl to a place that will absorb rather than condemn her "sin" — is also the journey from being found to being lost, the flight from being known, from a ruptured identity,

a sudden derailment from the grooves of a limited and perceived future. William Trevor's concern is with this larger plight, particularly in the case of young working-class girls — perhaps the people who have the least chance of self-sufficiency, the fewest options, the least control over their lives and the greatest vulnerability of any in our society. Mr Hilditch, the twisted catering manager of a local factory, offers his friendship to girls like these, girls who have been set adrift, believing he is protecting them from "the way the world is these days".

Trevor perceives a fetishistic element in the media-fet fascination with modern moral disintegration, and particularly the pseudo-pornography of details of "cigarettes... stubbed out on the flesh of infants" and "teenage girls... set alight on city wastelands" being offered up for public consumption.

Mr Hilditch loves these girls for the things that could, and eventually do, happen to them. They are moving targets or magnets for evil, and yet inevitably he also hates them for the complexity of their seeming willingness to be abused. "Of course, they're all the same. The truth stares out at them and they avert their eyes... The more they are told the more they tell them to themselves — Jakki about her so-called company director, Sharon up the garden path with the dry cleaner, father of five. The first time he met up with Bobbi she had a black eye: from walking into a door edge, she said."

Felicia, too, averts her eyes, believing that Johnny loves her even though he somehow forgot to give her his address and never wrote to her, trusting him when he said that she wouldn't get pregnant, ignoring her father's suspicion that Johnny doesn't work for a lawn-mower factory but has in fact joined the British army. Felicia's journey around the ring roads, business parks and industrial estates of the town, an unlabelled



William Trevor: his willingness to absent himself from his story is a necessary sacrifice to authenticity

individual in a place designed to repel those who are not part of its machinery, is Trevor's poignant image. It is here that Mr Hilditch finds her, and though she distrusts him, Felicia's status as an emotional rather than a consumerist creature gives her no entitlement to defence.

Mr Hilditch is a masterfully created character, a symbol of how malignancy can be disguised by a social framework whose rules are so clearly laid out that personal qualities

are often completely occluded. Mr Hilditch's adherence to the daily routine is pathological and complete, his religion that of brand-names and popular culture, and the darker recesses of his nature so utterly untouched that they operate a separate division of his personality with unchallenged autonomy. His deformity, of course, is the result of his own abuse as a child, a horror never discovered or compensated for, which has been left to grow undis-

turbed until it matures into its own potency.

Felicia's Journey is a sad and disturbing commentary on a society increasingly polarised by disposability and automatism. It is a peculiarly humble book, and Trevor's willingness to absent himself from the story he tells is a necessary sacrifice to authenticity. It is also, perhaps, a sign of confidence in the truthfulness of his picture, that it can be left to speak for itself.

### CROSSWORD CHALLENGE: DAYS

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Simply solve the crossword clues in *The Times* every day this week (the first six clues were printed in *Weekend* on Saturday, August 6) and write them on the crossword grid which was also printed on Saturday.

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Tomorrow, there will be another six clues and another £100 worth of traveller's cheques to be won.

Now try to solve *The Times* Crossword on page 20, and/or *Times* Two Crossword on page 40.

### THE FIFTH SIX CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 28 Italian opera composer almost comes to a French battle (6)  
33 Amazing fortune — led race all round the country (2,4,2,6)

#### DOWN

- 23 Revolutionary attacked in bath loses foot — horribly rude to reader (8)  
25 The French capital loses one working priest (6)  
27 Be very hungry: start to snack and avert cramps (6)  
30 French territory was not available to this alliance (4)

## Women, Knox and the Kirk

Geoffrey Rowell

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Saint Andrew Press, £20

earlier centuries would have been astonished at the richness of liturgical provision this book offers, from five orders for morning and evening worship, to a similar number of eucharistic rites, three orders for marriage, several funeral liturgies and prayers for healing, and a dedication of churches, burial grounds and church furnishings. As liturgists always tend to stand on one another's shoulders, this book, as well as serving its primary function of enriching the worship of the Kirk, will have an influence in its own right on liturgical revision in other churches.

If liturgy expresses and shapes doctrine, what may we learn from this book? There is a concern for "inclusive" language, meaning the avoidance of male-dominated language in reference to people, rubrics which refer to "she" in some services rather than invariably to "he", avoidance of "male-dominated language about God", and a sparing use of traditional language about God as "Father, Judge and King".

The common, though by no means universal, address to God in Latin collects, *omnipotens sempiternus Deus*, "almighty and everlasting God", thus appears relatively sparingly. The consequence is that the Christian paradox, that God's "almighty power" is declared "most chiefly in showing mercy and pity" (Collect for Trinity XI in the *Book of Common Prayer*), loses its force. The Panel on Worship concedes that the pursuit of inclusive language "does not

always make for elegant composition". Some will judge that, at least in some instances, political correctness has been bought too dearly.

The Virgin Birth only appears in translations of the Nicene and Apostles' creeds, but the saints find a greater recognition than earlier Protestants would allow. St Francis, who at one time was reviled as an example of popish monkery, is now accorded an honoured (and ecological) place alongside Augustine, Luther, Calvin and Knox.

There has been a conscious reaching out to Celtic spirituality, particularly in the rich collection of benedictions. Anglicans, who have often been divided over the sacrificial understanding of the Eucharist, should note that "offering" language is not avoided in the Eucharistic rites, and there is

a willingness to speak of "pleading" Christ's sacrifice.

The effort to find a contemporary liturgical language continues, and is hampered not only by concerns for "inclusivity" but also by the quest for internationally agreed English texts with inevitable transatlantic compromises. The virtual disappearance of "O" — a longing, thirsting, (evocative word — gives an abruptness to many prayers. "Generous God", "Vulnerable God", and "Gracious God" somehow do not have the euphony of "God of grace". The appearance of "technicians" (medical) in a funeral prayer raises questions about the appropriate register of language for prayer in a technological world.

The adoption of the common lectionary on a three-year cycle leaves the Church of England increasingly isolated from most of Western Christendom, and it is interesting that the

Kirk has seen fit to provide a Eucharist for use with children when Anglicans have been officially reluctant to do so, despite parochial pressure.

Just as printing in the 16th century ushered in increasing liturgical uniformity, so information technology underwrites diversity. Service books now have a greater element of "resource" rather than prescription about them. The panel responsible for the *Book of Common Order* explicitly cede their copyright when services are photocopied or duplicated for congregational use.

No liturgical book can, or should, win unqualified approval, but this book should do much to enhance not only the worship of the Church of Scotland but of other Christian traditions in this country. There is a certain irony, though, that the *strong Scriptural criterion* of Reformed liturgy should have been modified to the extent that it has been in respect of the Virgin Birth on the one hand and by feminist concerns on the other.



# Reflected glory of Prussian jackboots

Harold James on an elegant study of the tragic fate of Prussia, faustian symbol of Germany's divided soul

We often need and use ideas from the past — we might call them myths if we feel critical about their implications — to interpret the present. Prussia was literally a very powerful idea, as much as a geographic entity. Its career as an idea started when it became attached in 1701, by a curious historical accident, to the militarily most efficient of the numerous states within the Holy Roman Empire.

The ruler of Brandenburg (a label which described that German state better) wanted to sound more important than simply an Elector of the Empire, and obtained permission from the Emperor to use the title of one of his territories in the East and take the dignity of a King. Prussia brought the symbolic virtue of royalty. The Elector became, to be precise, King in Prussia, because Prussia was not a very important part of the possessions of the house of Brandenburg. Five generations later, in a similar way, his ancestor took the title of German Emperor.

In the 18th century, thanks largely to Frederick the Great, Prussia itself became the symbol. It carried two different meanings. First, it was Prussian militarism, the bad, slavishly obedient and ferocious Prussia which Woodrow Wilson fought in the First World War and which the Allies in 1945 wished to eradicate from world history by declaring the state of Prussia dissolved.

But side by side there was the good Prussia, Frederick the Great's religious toleration, a code of personal honour and dignity, and above all the great liberal reforms implemented in the early 19th century in the wake of defeat by

Napoleon. Prussia shone gloriously with her armies vanquished. This was a state which excelled at self-representation, in the sober but impressive modernity of Prussian neo-classicism, in well decorated Biedermeier interiors, in the beautifully landscaped gardens of Potsdam, but above all in the public architecture of Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The good Prussia emerged later, too, in the principled military resistance to Hitler.

Perhaps the good and the bad were mixed up hopelessly and the idea was, in reality, less an idea than a contradiction. Learned classical scholars on the one hand, who

wanted to extend education and indeed made it more generally available than in any other 19th-century state; and coarse red-nosed country squires who prided themselves on their ignorance.

Unlike England, which of course also developed, on the basis of its history, its own national stories and legends, Prussia never created an ideal social type. There was no equivalent of the English gentleman. As a result, there could never be a satisfying Prussian conservatism, merely a yearning for a nostalgic and mythical past.

There was another reason why Prussia could not offer political stability. National histories are not intellectually or politically sustaining unless they can conserve something, and it was never clear what the idea of Prussia intended to conserve. It was too violent, too unstable, and too radical. It always smelled rather too much of gunpowder, even when, like Frederick the Great, it was playing the flute.

Bismarck personified the problem. He was a psychologically hypersensitive man, very well read, and the author of hundreds of



Anton von Werner's *Proclamation of Kaiser Wilhelm, 1871*: Bismarck (centre) is in the white coat of a cuirassier, not the blue one the iron chancellor mistakenly wore

beautifully crafted parliamentary speeches as well as moving and eloquent personal letters. But he hated debate, despised intellectuals, and pretended to be very simple.

He claimed to be loyal only to the King of Prussia; but in creating Germany in 1871 he undermined the balance of Prussia. He was a perfect embodiment of Prussia: but almost everyone who claimed to love Prussia hated him. For the conservatives, he had destroyed the old state; and for the liberals, he was a despot.

Prussia, in fact, because it was both so heroic and so vague, could best be used negatively as a myth of opposition, by those who rejected the new German Empire of 1871 as too modern, by those who wanted to undermine the short-lived experiment in democracy in the 1920s, but also by those in the German army who resisted Hitler. In the end, in 1945, its ambiguity meant that Prussia could be used as a sort of historical disposal bag. The insubstantial parts of German history could be wrapped in it and then thrown away.

Oddly, when the German Democratic Republic was founded in the 1980s, it tried to take the bag from the rubbish pile of history and use it again as a glorification of a new red Prussia.

Giles MacDonald has written an elegant book which concentrates on the decline of the Prussian idea. He looks less at the great reform era, but chronicles in fascinating detail the extravagance and vice of Kaiser Wilhelm II's court, the disintegration of the Prussian ideal in the Weimar Republic, and the movement of some Prussian offi-

cers from admiration of national socialism to military resistance. Despite occasional omissions and small errors (the only building ascribed to Schinkel is an appalling pile of which he was completely innocent, or concessions to Prussianism such as calling the Vistula the Weichsel River, it is well-researched.

But easily the most attractive part of the book is the dust jacket, a reproduction of Anton von Werner's painting of the proclamation of the German Empire (and the effective end of old Prussia) in 1871.

The sun, reflected from the glass in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles, is re-reflected off the polished black leather boots of the Prussian officers and the equally polished pates of Bismarck and the first German Kaiser. Like Prussia itself, this was second-hand glory rather than a genuine, inwardly produced luminosity.

Harold James is Professor of History at Princeton University. He is the author of several books, including *A German Identity, 1770-1990* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson).

## Chronicles of empire by a monk of Magdalen

Daniel Johnson

COMMUNICATIONS AND POWER  
IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE  
Volume I: The Carolingian and Ottonian Centuries  
Volume II: The Gregorian Revolution and Beyond  
By Karl Leyser  
Hambleton Press, £35 each volume

in demographic growth and literary culture under which the political and ecclesiastical dispensations of the early middle ages buckled and collapsed in the late 11th century.

This new European consciousness also manifested itself in relations with societies beyond the Western, or Latin, arena; and Leyser has several essays which address this theme: a case study of the Empress Theophanu, contrasting Western and Eastern Emperorship; two papers on the historian and ambassador to Byzantium Liudprand of Cremona; and a brilliant analysis of "Money and Supplies on the First Crusade". The latter also shows Leyser's deep knowledge of the cultural impact of warfare, as do the essays on "Early Medieval

Warfare", "Early Medieval Canon Law and the Beginning of Knighthood" and "Warfare to the Western European Middle Ages: The Moral Debate".

His interest in chivalry was in turn part of a wider concern with medieval moves and codified forms of conduct: "Material Kin in Early Medieval Germany" is, despite its daunting title, an invaluable guide to the complexities of inheritance which determined the course of imperial politics. "Ritual, Ceremony and Gesture: Ottonian Germany" applies the methods of anthropology to the customs of an illiterate laity. "The Angevin Kings and the Holy Man" is a memorable portrait of St Hugh of Lincoln, which reveals the political utility of sanctity in an episcopal career under three kings.

Though Leyser was happy to borrow techniques and insights from the social sciences, he was vehement in his conviction that history was and ought to be a "timeless dialogue" — requiring "humanism", "imagination and literary sensibilities". His passionate devotion to the historiography of his favourite subject-matter — explicit in studies here of Nithard, Widukind of Corvey, Thietmar of Merseburg and Liudprand of Cremona, but implicit in his pithy commentaries on other historians throughout these volumes — was an affirmation of a lifelong fidelity to the ideals of his discipline.

He derived these from his own mentor Bruce McFarlane and from the best traditions of German scholarship. Like many émigrés, he embraced British institutions with a quaint but ferocious tenacity. Yet his affection for the medieval Reich was transparent. His insistence that Germany's distinctive social and legal traditions were bound to have long-term political conse-

quences gave an edge to his investigations. In such masterly essays as "The Crisis of Medieval Germany", "The Ottonians and Wessex", "997: The Ottonian Connection", "Gregory VII and the Saxons" and two papers on Frederick Barbarossa, Leyser placed the Reich and its political evolution in a broad and richly documented context.

Thus the life of the Anglo-Saxon princess Edith, who married Otto I, the man destined to restore the empire to its rightful status and to link its fortunes to the German nation, is used by Leyser as a vehicle to discuss the crucial role of this Anglo-Saxon connection in the legitimization of Ottonian kingship and the Liudolfing dynasty. Edith's personality emerges clearly from the sources, but only through a master who can interpret the most arcane and impersonal evidence.

Likewise a later princess from England: Mathilda, daughter of King Henry I, who became the bride of the Emperor Henry V and, as his widow, was designated by her father to be his successor. Leyser shows, in his highly original article on "The Anglo-Norman Succession, 1120-1125", that Henry I did not share the assumption of 20th-century historians that the absorption of his kingdom into the German Reich was to be avoided at all costs.

He argues that from the moment that Henry I's son, William, was drowned in the White Ship in 1120, the old king resolved to make his daughter (and her imperial consort) his heir, as a bulwark against usurpers such as William of Clito or Stephen of Mortain — who was indeed to challenge Mathilda successfully for the throne after Henry I's death. Leyser supports his thesis by examining the Emperor Henry V's papers and movements during the years preceding his death in 1125. He shows that Henry V assisted his father-in-law by diverting Louis VI of France away from Normandy, and that he occupied Utrecht to secure his communications with England.

Leyser was always ready to



Karl Leyser: a sketch of 1991 by Peter Greenham

sound a note of caution when less erudite scholars posited "grand designs" and overlooked the essentially dynastic nature of medieval politics. Frederick Barbarossa spent his reign accumulating land for his sons, not creating a state — and in so doing he actually weakened such civil society as existed. He did not initiate the measures used by Angevin or Capetian monarchs to institutionalise their fiscal or judicial powers: Barbarossa was "accustomed to his authority to radiate from his own person".

Leyser's deep knowledge of English history enabled him to grasp the peculiarities of German history better than most of his German peers. More than any other historian, he emphasises the conjunction of the Gregorian revolution and the Saxon revolt in the 1070s as the defining moment of imperial, papal and hence of European history. The "great conflict between *regnum* and *sacerdotium*" was, he argues, "total", a revolution which knew no restoration, which had its own equivalent of the Communist Manifesto (Humbert of Moyenmoutier's *Adversus simoniacos libri tres*), and which ushered onto the European stage the first religious mass movements.

But it is also Leyser's distinction to have shown why the revolt of the Saxons, which began in 1073 and lasted for several decades without ever being crushed, was the neces-

sary condition for the dynamic impact of Gregory VII's reform. How little the Pope understood of the Wagnerian world of Saxon feudalism Leyser shows very clearly. But the end of imperial dominion over the Church could not have occurred without the Saxon withdrawal of consent from the Emperor Henry IV's rule.

Leyser was not a didactic historian, in the sense of subordinating scholarship to polemical ends; but he found insights into modern predicaments wherever he returned to medieval sources. Apropos of 10th-century England, he remarks: "We tend to think that centralisation, bureaucracy, too much government and taxation are very recent troubles in our polity, quite novel English diseases, contrary to the mainstream of all the best historical traditions. The reverse is true. They are deep-seated and deeply rooted phenomena in English political society, part of its very birth... No Christian kingdom outside Byzantium could be and was as relentlessly taxed as that ruled by Aethelred II and Cnut."

Leyser was hostile to all forms of interference by government in academic affairs, and he was suspicious of any attempt to enlist history in the service of the State. Nazi Germany had taught him all he needed to know about the worship of secular saviours. He entered fully into the spirit of that theocentric outlook on the world which perished with the middle ages. Our history was his religion.

Karl Leyser loved medieval civilisation. It embodied the most profound truths and the most precious achievements he knew. And it was his own life's work to help bring the age of chivalry, the glory of Europe, back into the light.

Fewer than 5 per cent of history A-level candidates last year chose to study the middle ages. Our schools are turning their backs on medieval history, and universities, starved of undergraduates, are slowly following suit. Yet this country has produced more great medieval historians than any other.

Seldom has medieval history found an interpreter as dedicated to reversing its present decline as Karl Leyser. From the moment that he came up to Magdalen College, Oxford, as a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany who had already fought as an officer in the Black Watch against his former countrymen, Leyser was in his element.

Oxford made him a historian, but he never wholly abandoned his roots. Leyser was to become the greatest authority of his day on the medieval German Reich, from the Carolingians to the Hohenstaufens, though he hardly visited Germany until his last years. He stayed at Magdalen almost to the end of his life, when he moved a few yards up the High Street to All Souls as Chichele Professor of Medieval History, the highest rung on his professional ladder.

By the time he married, late in life, a gifted and beautiful pupil, Henrietta, and became a genial *paterfamilias*, Leyser was already an awe-inspiring example of scholarly asceticism. The shabby elegance of his donnish existence suited him. His reputation as one of Oxford's most remarkable characters spread far and wide. In lecture, tutorial or conversation, Leyser was unfailingly to the point.

He wrote little and published less; but his articles were eagerly awaited by his peers. The scholarly article has been the chief vehicle of historical research for the past century or more, since the learned journals left behind their origins in the 19th-century reviews. Most academic articles are too specialised to appeal to general readers. But the best historians have always sought to make a new analysis of a particular problem stand out by hinting at the grand synthesis to which their new solution holds the key.

Leyser's articles are always suggestive in this way.

Just before his death in 1992, his pupils assembled a festschrift, *Warriors and Champions in the High Middle Ages: Essays presented to Karl Leyser*, edited by Timothy Reuter (*Hambleton*, £35), testifies to a remarkable teacher. His oracular tutorial manner echoes through an essay by Gerald Harriss — another of the "monks of Magdalen", as Gibbon mocked the college which, since 1945, has excelled all others at Oxford in the teaching of history.

But this volume also reveals just how unusual Leyser's historical range really was. Two contributions are fine instances of the history of ideas firmly embedded in the sources. Felipe Fernandez-Armesto's "The Survival of a Notion of Reconquista in Late Tenth- and Eleventh-Century León" is a gentle admonition to revisionists, who seek to absorb Spain into the European mainstream, not to throw the Reconquista out with the historiography of Francoism. Another piece in this mould is John Gillingham's comparison of Henry II and Richard I, restoring the Lionheart to his rightful place alongside the father who has overshadowed him in modern historiography. But most of these essays are, compared with Leyser's own magisterial evocation of an entire culture, quite narrowly specialised.

The two volumes of Leyser's papers, many of them previously unpublished, which Timothy Reuter has now edited, represent a distillation of his entire intellectual life. Precisely because this collection is so heterogeneous (articles, lectures, reviews), it retains something of the author's spontaneous eloquence and displays his imposing erudition in a seductively readable, even anecdotal form. It is a pity that Reuter's meticulous editing (he provides copious references where these were lacking) did not extend to careful proof-reading: the text is littered with tiresome errors.

Most of Leyser's earlier essays were collected in another volume, *Medieval*

*Germany and its Neighbours, 900-1250*, and with one or two exceptions those included in these posthumous volumes are the product of his last decade. One may regret the fact that, as Reuter says in his fine appreciation of "Karl Leyser the Historian", he "planned, thought about or contracted to write", at least five books, apart from his single full-length monograph *Rule and Conflict in an Early Medieval Society: Ottonian Saxony*, but left no more than sketches for any of them.

Yet what we have here probably encompasses the principal arguments on which Leyser's unwritten *magnum opus* would have explicated. Arranged in roughly chronological order, they disclose several abiding preoccupations. The first of these, appropriately for a German-born historian writing in Oxford during the 1980s, is Europe. Three long essays — "Concepts of Europe in the Early and High Middle Ages", "The Ascent of Latin Europe" and "On the Eve of the First European Revolution" — reflect on the drastic acceleration



St Francis preaching to the birds, c.1247, perhaps the earliest depiction of the subject. From *The Illustrated Chronicles of Matthew Paris* (Alan Sutton, £12.99 pbk)

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## Murray's challenge brushed aside in closing stages

## O'Sullivan confirms superiority

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN HELSINKI

SONIA O'Sullivan, of Ireland, won her first international championship gold medal here last night but not before Yvonne Murray had made a courageous defence of the 3,000 metres title that she won in Split four years ago.

Murray's strong front-running ensured that the race developed into a contest between the two women who have set women's middle distance running alight this season.

Murray, beaten by O'Sullivan in their three previous races this summer, tried a different tactic on this occasion. Instead of following O'Sullivan, she attempted to run the sting out of her. It did not work but it was a spirited effort.

The first lap was slow by the standards of O'Sullivan and Murray have set this season, 69.94sec. Murray's strategy had been to see whether O'Sullivan would take it on over the first 400 metres and, when she did not, she took the initiative in the hope that it would be the gold medal would not be decided in a finishing sprint.

"I knew that if it came to a sprint I would be in trouble," Murray said. Her training has been tailored to 10,000

Szabo, of Romania, taking third in 8min 40.08sec three weeks after winning the world junior title. As she steps up in distance, Murray takes with her a full set of European medals, having won the bronze in 1986.

Lyubov Gurina, of Russia, won the 800 metres, though the clock could not separate her from Natalya Dukhova, of Belarus, both recording 1min 58.55sec.

Ann Griffiths, of Britain, set a personal best of 1min 59.81sec in fifth place, a remarkable effort considering she had finished last in her heat and qualified for the semi-finals as a fastest loser.

Oleg Tverdokhlebov set a Ukraine record to win the 400 metres hurdles, surprising the favourites, Sven Nylander, of Sweden, and Stephanie Diagana, of France. The Ukrainian recorded 48.06sec. Nylander, 48.22sec, and Diagana, 48.23sec, Britain's finalists, Peter Crampton and Gary Cadogan, were sixth (49.45) and eighth (49.53).

Geir Moen, runner-up to Linford Christie in the 100 metres, should be the athlete to benefit most from John Regis's withdrawal from the 200 metres. Moen won his second round heat with ease, relaxing arms and legs 50 metres from the line yet recording 20.68sec, the fastest time of the round.

Moen looks certain to become Norway's first European sprint champion tonight, which would have been unlikely had Regis been in the field. Regis flies here today, in time to see who will succeed him as European champion, and to run in the 4x100 metres relay.

The Achilles tendon injury which precipitated Regis's withdrawal from the 200 metres has responded to treatment in time for the relay. It is just as well: Colin Jackson, who begins the defence of his 110 metres hurdles title today, announced yesterday that, because of a "tight" thigh, he would be pulling out of the relay. "With the Commonwealth Games and grand prix to run I have decided to withdraw," Jackson said.

Britain's troubles in the 200 metres do not end with the men. Katharine Merry may withdraw from the semi-finals today to try to ensure that competing here does not harm her chances in the Commonwealth Games a fortnight hence. Until the first round yesterday, which she came through in 23.73sec, Merry had not raced since the European Cup in June.

Finishing second raised hopes that, seven weeks later, she might take a medal here. However, tendinitis afflicted both knees and she has completed only three training sessions since. "It is a problem that will not go away," Merry said, adding that she probably needs to rest for four weeks.

Her dilemma is that, while wanting to avoid aggravating the inflammation, she needs races if she is to show up well in the Commonwealth Games. It is clear that she has written off a medal here.



Katharine Merry, centre, qualified in her heat in the 200 metres but may withdraw from the semi-finals

## RESULTS FROM HELSINKI

## Men

**200 METRES:** First round (first four in each heat and overall four fastest losers to qualify): Heat 1: 1, G. Moen (Nor) 20.68sec; 2, A. Marquand (GB) 21.16; 3, D. Sanguma (Fin) 20.96; 4, A. Pakarinen (Fin) 21.02. Heat 2: 1, G. Moen (Nor) 20.68sec; 2, A. Marquand (GB) 21.16; 3, D. Sanguma (Fin) 20.96; 4, A. Pakarinen (Fin) 21.02. Heat 3: 1, G. Moen (Nor) 20.68sec; 2, A. Marquand (GB) 21.16; 3, D. Sanguma (Fin) 20.96; 4, A. Pakarinen (Fin) 21.02. Heat 4: 1, G. Moen (Nor) 20.68sec; 2, A. Marquand (GB) 21.16; 3, D. Sanguma (Fin) 20.96; 4, A. Pakarinen (Fin) 21.02.

**3,000 METRES STEEPCHASE:** Heat 1: 1, A. Carr (GB) 8:29.90; 2, M. Rowland (GB) 8:30.24; 3, W. Van Diek (GB) 8:30.93; 4, T. Harkin (GB) 8:31.50. Heat 2: 1, A. Carr (GB) 8:29.90; 2, M. Rowland (GB) 8:30.24; 3, W. Van Diek (GB) 8:30.93; 4, T. Harkin (GB) 8:31.50.

**400 METRES HURDLES:** Final: 1, O. Tverdokhlebov (Ukr) 48.06sec; 2, S.

**200 METRES:** Heat 1: 1, V. Kiselev (Ukr) 23.73; 2, S. Lichtenhan (GB) 23.82; 3, A. Regis (GB) 23.85; 4, P. Crampton (GB) 23.88; 5, G. Moen (Nor) 23.91; 6, G. Cadogan (GB) 23.94. Heat 2: 1, V. Kiselev (Ukr) 23.73; 2, S. Lichtenhan (GB) 23.82; 3, A. Regis (GB) 23.85; 4, P. Crampton (GB) 23.88; 5, G. Moen (Nor) 23.91; 6, G. Cadogan (GB) 23.94. Heat 3: 1, V. Kiselev (Ukr) 23.73; 2, S. Lichtenhan (GB) 23.82; 3, A. Regis (GB) 23.85; 4, P. Crampton (GB) 23.88; 5, G. Moen (Nor) 23.91; 6, G. Cadogan (GB) 23.94. Heat 4: 1, V. Kiselev (Ukr) 23.73; 2, S. Lichtenhan (GB) 23.82; 3, A. Regis (GB) 23.85; 4, P. Crampton (GB) 23.88; 5, G. Moen (Nor) 23.91; 6, G. Cadogan (GB) 23.94.

**400 METRES HURDLES:** Semi-final (first four to final): Heat 1: 1, M. Messner (Ger) 55.18sec; 2, T.

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**400 METRES HURDLES:** Semi-final (first four to final): Heat 1: 1, M. Messner (Ger) 55.18sec; 2, T.

## Plans to teach runners who no longer race

With the golden era of British middle-distance running emphatically at an end, David Miller meets the man who must find a way forward

Peter Radford, the executive chairman of the British Athletic Federation (BAF), yesterday outlined plans to prevent a repetition of the embarrassing slump seen in the European championship men's 1,500 metres final in Helsinki. Britain dominated the event in the Seventies and Eighties with Overt, Coe and Cram. On Tuesday, their two contenders limped in last.

Radford, a former Olympic sprinter, is concerned that Britain's runners, voluntarily manipulated by the commercial era, have forgotten not just how to race but, more important, how to train for racing. He wants a return to coaching principles — among other things.

It has been a harrowing first few months for the man with responsibility for unifying a sport divided by factions for 50 years. The suicide of Cliff Temple, the athletics journalist and the subsequent dismissal of Andy Norman, the BAF promotions officer; the resignation of Frank Dick as national coach; a contraction of income; a decline in a traditional region of track power; all this has left Radford with his feet barely touching the ground.

Yet events have, in a sense, played into his hands, because he arrived intent on a restructuring of the BAF's philosophy on many fronts. To put the performance issue simply, Radford, formerly professor of physical education at Glasgow University, wants to make leading televised events — championships apart — the servants of athletes, not the other way around.

"We have surely learnt our lesson," he said. "We have been selecting athletes [for championships] who have been dragged round in fifth place in staged races, concentrating on qualifying times and not on learning to race. We're our runners ready [for the 1,500 metres], and if not why not? If they were, physically, what went wrong mentally?"

Radford points to the fundamental contradiction: a sport still 95 per cent amateur, five per cent professional. On the commercial roundabout, Britain is generating runners such as Steve Cram, who ran 3min 33sec in 1987, yet achieved nothing in championships. Runners are self-destructing for the sake of minor rewards, while the basic truths of coaching and training go out of the window.

"Overt and Coe emerged in the amateur era, meticulously planned their racing schedules, and subsequently made money, but that era has gone," Radford reflected. "I want our athletes to submit to the BAF coaching team their structured racing preparation and

programme for the year. Even if we don't open the envelopes, it will force them and their coaches to think, instead of living month by month. Athletes must turn down some financial openings, while the BAF must try to provide the support to enable them to do that."

In May, following Dick's resignation, Radford organised a national conference of coaches and development officers, chaired by David Hemery, to discuss not what were the answers for a projected ten-year plan, but the questions: something he had failed to agree with Dick, whose policy was one of adjusting the Geoff Dyson framework for the Fifties, in which regional coaches did not handle athletes — unless independently — but coached coaches.

Radford considers that natural-resource management should stretch far beyond the elite international system, advocated and successfully operated by Dick. He wants to extend the programme that was initiated last year with the Women's Advisory Group, identifying priorities and positive attitudes, which helped achieve the first women's qualification for the World Cup.

The intention is to expand the influence of coaching and to reduce the power over athletes, held by Norman, in the promotion of televised events. "We owe Andy a debt in successfully moving the sport from the amateur to professional era," Radford said, "yet he was controlling a relatively few athletes. I think the head of promotions, [at present Ian Stewart] should be concerned with event management and the management of athletes should come from coaching."

Radford wants to ensure that the money generated through "television/sponsorship" does not become self-serving for the elite, to the disadvantage of the rest. Therefore, the energy of the new commercial director, Barry Snelgrove, must be devoted to more diverse, and less television-dependent, sources.

That is a tall financial order. Behind Radford's aims, however, lies an old maxim. Potential champions are not created by financial opportunity, but by sound coaching geared to the individual's character and ability, backed by intelligent hard work. As David Martin, a physiology professor from Atlanta, Georgia, has said: "You have to discover what is the least amount of the most specific training that will work for each individual. Then you move on from not just how many miles, but how to compete, and how to think under extreme stress."

## Davies expected to beat off American challenge

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

THE bookmakers on site are not exactly hedging their bets at the Westabix women's British Open at Woburn, for Ladbroke's, there is only one winner of the championship, which starts today on the Duke's course: Laura Davies, the world No. 1, whose odds are 100-30.

Davies, who won the Open in 1986, is having the best season of her career, with six victories and approaching £500,000 in prize-money. She is moving into a new house in Surrey, built in 5½ acres, as soon as this tournament is over.

How different from the circumstances of another Englishwoman who is also having the best season of her career, but is 54th on the Ladies' Professional Golf Association (LPGA) money-list with \$68,976, where Davies is first with \$389,120. Caroline Pierce, the woman in question, from Sussex, is playing on her native heath for the first time since 1986.

As an amateur, she reached the semi-finals of the British championship before turning professional and settling in Houston. Neither tall nor strong, she struggled on as a tour lightweight, but made a good living thanks to pro-arms and endorsements.

Then came 1994, a year she

will never forget. After the first tournament of the season, in February, she went home to Houston. She was lying in bed at 3.30am, when three robbers kicked in the door of her apartment. "They held a gun to my head," Pierce said, "but they didn't hurt me. I think I said 'Don't shoot' and they put me in a corner on the floor and took whatever they wanted. It all took about 20 minutes."

It took Pierce, now 31, a little longer to recover. Initially, she was almost unnaturally calm, but she was to miss five cuts in a row and, at Tucson, in March, she suffered a delayed reaction: "I was hysterical for three days," she said.

Now, however, it is all behind her. A member of the LPGA's executive committee, she is moving house to Phoenix soon and she has started playing well, registering two top-ten finishes, including a share of third place in the ShopRite Classic in June, the best she has managed as a professional.

"I think I'm having an out of body experience," was how she explained her form, jokingly, anxious not to be confused with the inimitable Muffin Spencer-Devlin, who spent part of last week in Cornwall. "I visited Tintagel," the eccentric American said,

"my birthplace." For those unfamiliar with Spencer-Devlin, without whom no Woburn occasion is complete, she was, she claims, King Arthur in a previous life. The Open is now an official-ly-sanctioned LPGA tournament, with official prize-money and Solheim Cup points at stake and 13 of the top 35 players on the United States money-list are here, including former US Open champions Betsy King, who won the British title in 1983, and Amy Alcock.

Both need one more victory to enter the Hall of Fame and it could happen here, where there are not quite so many people asking them how they feel about being so near to immortality. Other American luminaries, like Nancy Lopez, Beth Daniel and Tammie Green, eschewed a tiring trip overseas, but Richard George, the chairman of Westabix Ltd, who has worked tirelessly to raise the status of this championship, which has record prize-money of £335,000, was unfazed.

"I'm pleased with the quality of the players who've come here," he said yesterday. "The people who've got the magic, the zip and who attract the crowds are Laura and Helen [Alfredsson] and we've got them."

## US PGA looms as last-chance saloon



The Americans intend to keep the fourth major golf title from eluding their grasp, John Hopkins reports

that can be said, as well as 40 club professionals. The field includes a record contingent of 16 Europeans.

The 76th US PGA is the final opportunity this year to win one of the game's four major championships and the last chance to settle a few scores. The Americans are an example of the former, anxious that one of them should win so that all of the major titles do not go to overseas players.

Nick Faldo falls into the latter category. This year is the first since 1987, when he won the Open at Muirfield, that he

has not been in contention for any of the major championships. "Hmmm," he said before he went out for his final practice round. "I know that we've worked hard enough. It's only a matter of time. I like the course. It's a thinker's course. You have to shape every shot."

Putting remains Faldo's relative weakness. At moments last weekend, he seemed to have rediscovered the touch that made him one of the world's best. At Grand Blanc, Michigan, last Saturday, he reeled off five successive birdies on the way to finishing equal eleventh in the Buick

Open. Even so, he fretted on his final US PGA, said: "I call Southern Hills as I do Oakmont. Winged Foot and Olympic Club — the mainline golf courses of America. They always seem to hold up for the majors. Rarely does anybody get through the guard that protects these courses."

There has not been a dry eye since Paul Azinger returned to the game eight days ago after overcoming cancer in his right shoulder. His presence, to defend the title he matched so dramatically from Greg Norman in a two-hole play-off last year, strengthens the American challenge, as does that of the revitalised Fred Couples, who won in Grand Blanc.

"I think it makes everybody on tour feel good that Paul's back," Corey Pavin said. "He's a great player, a great guy and the Tour is better for having him out here."

In attempting to predict a winner, a statistical quirk should not be ignored. José María Olazábal came second in New Orleans the week before his victory in the Masters. Ernie Els came second in the Buick Classic in June and followed up by winning the US Open. Nick Price snatched victory at the Open a week after taking the Western Open. Such form suggests that either Couples, who was 18 under par for his last 54 holes last week, or Pavin, the runner-up to Couples, will become the 76th US PGA champion.




Couples: fine form



## 7.

## TABLE 4

6.35 **The California Raisin Show** (tr) (4500+30)  
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (68701)  
9.00 **Running the Halls** (tr) (Teletext) (16701)  
9.30 **Biker Mice From Mars** (5360128)  
9.55 **Saved by the Bell** (tr) (Teletext) (5345873)  
10.25 **Owl TV. Wildlife series** (tr) (Teletext) (3614879)  
10.50 **Betty's Bunch** (tr) (5253492)  
11.20 **The Adventures of Tintin** (tr) (5442904)  
11.50 **Adventures of Super Mario Brothers** (tr) (5350072)  
12.00 **The Lone Ranger** (b/w) Vintage western (49427)  
Followed by **History of the World in Three Minutes Flat**. Announced by Michael Hills  
12.30 **Sesame Street**. The guests are Los Lobos (tr) (76898) 1.30 **Madeline** (tr) (545701)  
2.00 **FILM: In The Good Old Summertime** (1949) starring Judy Garland and Van Johnson. Musical romantic comedy about a music shop assistant who falls in love with her pen pal, unaware that he is her hated superior. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard. (672237)  
3.50 **Live From Cape Canaveral**. Cartoon (5402140)  
3.55 **A Day in the Life... Ralph Krashbaum**. The celebrated cellist talks about what his life is like at the top for a classical musician (tr) (Teletext) (8381430)  
4.30 **Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (343)  
5.00 **Kingdoms in Conflict: The Desert and the Deep Blue Sea**. Maunaiman wildlife under threat (tr) (Teletext) (s) (8409)  
6.00 **Home Improvement**. American comedy short about a DIY television programme host (tr) (Teletext) (s) (508)  
6.30 **Roseanne**. Wiscracracking comedy starring Roseanne Arnold (tr) (Teletext) (s) (188)  
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) and weather (507782)  
7.50 **The Slot**. Viewer access series (Teletext) (756550)  
8.00 **Tour of Britain**. Highlights of the fourth of five stages, the 124 miles from Chester to Leicester (3576)  
  
**A blue tit feeds its hungry chicks (8.30pm)**  
8.30 **CHOICE** **Wild Britain**. (Teletext) (s) (2091)  
9.00 **CHOICE** **Cinefile: Marlon Brando - Wild One**. (Teletext) (6614)  
10.00 **FILM: Last Tango in Paris** (1972) starring Marlon Brando and Maria Schneider. Bernardo Bertolucci's controversial film of a love affair without love between a middle-aged American, distressed by his wife's suicide, and a young Parisienne who is about to embark on a loveless marriage. (Teletext) (43787430)  
12.25 **NEW** **The World of Hammer**. A 13-part travel through the Hammer archives. Narrated by Oliver Reed (9523695)  
12.55 **Next Stop Hollywood: They Haven't Seen This**. Eric Bergson's allegory on hope and loss (1433831)  
1.20 **The People's Parliament** (tr) (8374947)  
2.15 **Big Big Country**. Hank Wordford examines the role of the duet in country music (tr) (244183). Ends at 3.15

## SATELLITE

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Reporters (938) 2 5.2

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Party (1955); Ernest B.

than TMT films as belows.  
 Thirt, High Society  
 7.00 The Philadel. Debuts (1958)  
 Comedy with P. O'Keefe, Angela Lansbury  
 and Kay Kendall (1388218)  
 8.50 The Swan (1956) A princess lost in  
 love with the swan. With Grace Kelly and  
 Alec Guinness (5121935)  
 10.50 How Highgate and the Bellboy  
 (1954). Farrie comedy with Hedy Lamarr  
 a love-princess in New York (1280653)  
 12.50 We Were Dancing (1942) Norma  
 Macmillan and her friends. Comedy with  
 who eloped with gogo! Mervyn Douglas  
 (3040958)  
 14.00 The King's Vacation (1933). A king  
 abdicates to find the simple life. Comedy  
 with George Arliss (6165207). Ends at 5.00



## RACING 37

PLOTTING A COURSE  
THAT COMBINES  
THREE DISCIPLINES

## SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 11 1994

## GOLF 38

AMERICANS AIM TO  
REVERSE TREND IN  
US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

## Formula One racing lurches into further controversy



Benetton's pit crew tries to extinguish the fire that engulfed Verstappen, the Dutch driver, during a refuelling stop in the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim two weeks ago

## Benetton blamed for pit blaze

By OLIVER HOLT

IT SEEMED there was nothing more that a season groaning with tragedy and crisis could yield but, yesterday, Formula One motor racing lurched into one of the most serious controversies to have engulfed it. Last night, Benetton, the team that leads the constructors' championship, and whose driver, Michael Schumacher, heads the individual championship, stood accused of causing the fire in the pit lane at the German Grand Prix a fortnight ago by tampering with its refuelling equipment.

The possible repercussions of the allegations, which were made by the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) in a statement yesterday, are endless. Grim-faced FIA officials said the matter was being taken "very, very seriously", and representatives of other teams were dismayed at the threat to the whole of the pit-lane implicit in the suggestion that Benetton may have risked a mishap to gain an advantage of several seconds over the course of a race through improvement in the speed of its pit-stops.

Schumacher is already faced with the prospect of a two-race ban for ignoring a black flag at the British Grand Prix a month ago; the team is reeling from other, unsubstantiated, allegations that it used an outlawed "launch control" system to improve its start at the San Marino Grand Prix in May. Now, draconian penal-

ties beckon. If Benetton cannot clear its name before a hearing in Paris on October 19, it is likely to be banned from the final two grands prix of the season, in Japan and Australia. That may be just the start.

The fire, which happened midway through the German Grand Prix, exploded over a car driven by the Dutch driver, Jos Verstappen. Schumacher's team-mate, He and five team mechanics escaped with superficial burns because of the prompt action of other team members, who put the fire out in four seconds, and the efficacy of the protective fire-proof clothing worn by those involved.

But after studying a report provided by Inter Technique, the French firm that provides the refuelling rigs, the FIA said: "The fuel spillage was caused by a valve failing to close properly. The valve was slow to close due to the presence of a foreign body.

The foreign body is believed to have reached the valve because a filter designed to eliminate the risk had been deliberately removed."

Any alteration in the refuelling equipment is expressly forbidden by the FIA. Benetton claimed last night it had been given permission by Charlie Whiting, the governing body's technical delegate, to remove the mesh on a strainer, or filter, on the nozzle of the equipment on the Thurs-

day before the race, which took place at Hockenheim. The FIA flatly denied that claim and Max Mosley, president of FIA, said: "All requests to modify equipment have to be made in writing and responded to in writing. This did not occur in this particular instance."

It also seems puzzling that Whiting could have given Benetton permission to make a performance-enhancing change to its equipment without informing other teams or Inter Technique, who make superficial checks on the rigs on every day of every race meeting. At the moment, Benetton's defence is perilously incomplete and a damage limitation exercise during the Hungarian Grand Prix in Budapest this weekend is looming.

Speaking from the company's factory near Lyons last night, an Inter Technique executive said Benetton had made no attempt to hide the fact it had removed the mesh when the inquiry into the fire began. The removal of it adversely affected the safety of the equipment, he said, and allowed the team to pump fuel into the car 12 per cent faster than if the mesh was still in place.

The importance of swift pit-stops has increased since refuelling was reintroduced at the beginning of this season to add elements of strategy and uncertainty to the contests. Teams now stop two or three times a race, the lead changes more often and the cars run faster because they can run

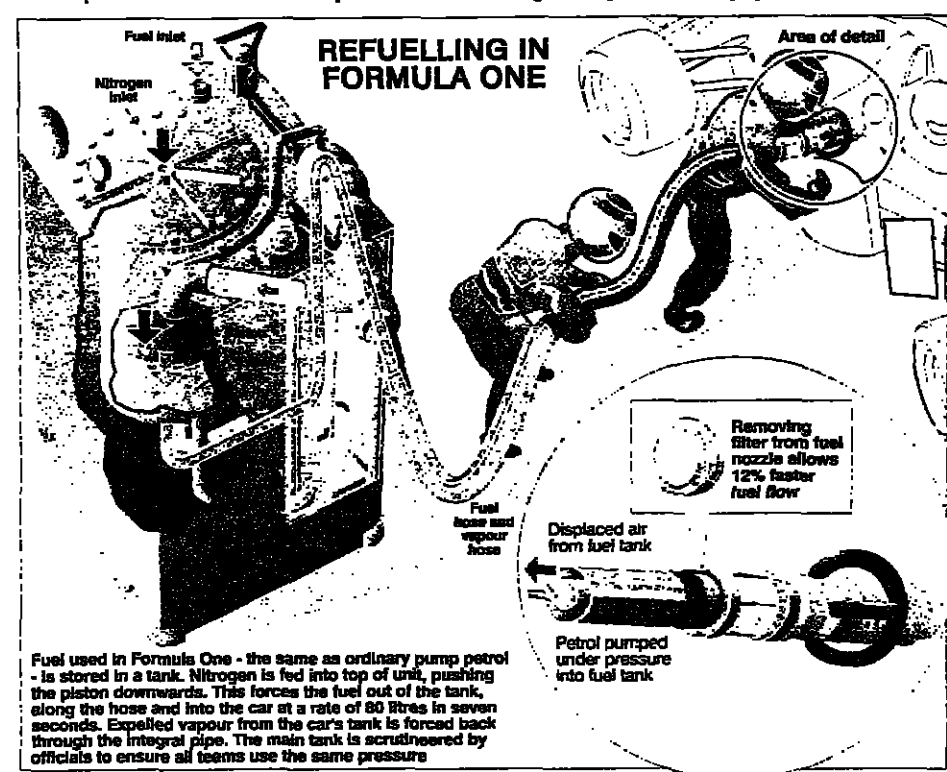
with lighter fuel loads. The drawback was the risk of fire but, until the incident at Hockenheim, there have not been any alarms.

Benetton has consistently been the team producing the quickest pit-stops at each race, causing consternation among their rivals. Damon Hill, Schumacher's nearest challenger and the chief beneficiary of Benetton's woes, was so exasperated by its supremacy he issued a veiled admonition to his crew. That supremacy may be seen in a different light now.

Benetton attempted to justify its removal of the filter by claiming from its base in Oxfordshire last night that it had solved the problem of debris entering the valve and car, which had prompted the introduction of the device after the start of the season. The team said it commissioned an independent accident investigation company to examine the car and it had found there was no evidence of any debris in the valve that could have caused the spillage.

"Benetton Formula concluded the filter was unnecessary," the team statement said. "The team's fuel rigs prior to Hockenheim had been thoroughly stripped and cleaned and there was no risk of debris entering the valve."

"The consequence of attributing, incorrectly, the cause of this fire to the lack of a filter, means that such an incident could happen again, possibly with far more serious consequences."



Fuel used in Formula One - the same as ordinary pump petrol - is stored in a tank. Nitrogen is fed into top of unit, pushing the piston downwards. This forces the fuel out of the tank, along the hose and into the car at a rate of 80 litres in seven seconds. Expelled vapour from the car's tank is forced back through the integral pipe. The main tank is scrutinised by officials to ensure all teams use the same pressure

## Murray left trailing by golden burst of O'Sullivan

FROM DAVID MILLER  
IN HELSINKI

SONIA O'Sullivan, of Ireland, and Yvonne Murray, Britain's valiant trier, whose races against each other this season have become almost as regular as colleagues going off to work, predictably dominated the women's 3,000 metres final in the European championships last night. The gold medal was equally predictably won by O'Sullivan, who, at 24, became the first Irishwoman to win a European title.

By halfway, the two leaders had opened a gap of some 40 metres on the rest of the field, in which Alison Wyeth, of Britain, was battling with four others for the bronze medal. When O'Sullivan, who had led into the final straight of the 1992 Olympic Games only to miss a medal, was at Murray's shoulder at the bell, we knew the result.

Sure enough, O'Sullivan burst clear on the final bend, leaving Murray floundering, to win in 3min 31.84sec, more than ten seconds outside the European record she set this year. Behind Murray, whose time of 3min 36.48sec was well outside her best for the season, Gabriela Szabo, of Romania, took the bronze, with a personal best, a stride ahead of Olga Churbanova, of Russia. Wyeth, dropped from the trailing pack on the penultimate lap, was sixth.

O'Sullivan, who, in the world championships last year, was beaten in the 1,500 metres and 3,000 metres only by Chinese, said afterwards that she was confident of victory from 600 metres out. Some would have guessed more. Murray, whose fine career has been limited in many championships by her lack of finishing speed, said that she had been obliged to make the running from early on, once O'Sullivan did not. "With 300 to go, I thought she was as knackered as I was," Murray said, but the evidence proved otherwise.

Sally Gunnell, Britain's consistent champion, was an easy winner of her 400 metres hurdles semi-final in a cantering 54.60sec. The women's 800 metres final was won by the thickness of her vest by Lyubov Gurina, of Russia.

David Powell, page 38  
Results, page 38

## Redknapp steps in as Bonds resigns at West Ham

By ALISON RUDD

BILLY Bonds resigned yesterday as manager of West Ham United. For 27 years, Bonds represented the heart and soul of the east London club, but he turned down a place on the board, thus severing ties with the club completely.

Bonds' resignation came with three years left on his contract. Harry Redknapp, his assistant, was immediately appointed his successor, signing a five-year contract.

Redknapp said yesterday that delight at his promotion was tinged with sadness that Bonds had left.

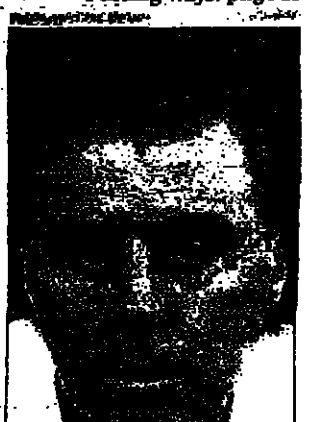
Bonds joined West Ham in 1967, played 795 games and captained the club to FA Cup victory in 1975 and 1980. He was appointed manager in February 1990 and Redknapp, his former team-mate, joined as his assistant two years ago.

Two key events are at the centre of Bonds' decision. He was frustrated by the behaviour of Joey Beauchamp, the forward he signed from Oxford United for £1 million in June. Beauchamp was unhappy at the club and had not responded to Bonds' efforts to make him feel more settled.

In addition, Bournemouth had approached Redknapp and it looked as if he was about to leave to manage the Dorset club. West Ham felt it could not afford to lose both men, but Peter Sturges, the managing director, denied that Redknapp was offered the post before it was clear that Bonds intended to leave.

Frank Lampard, a former West Ham player, emerged as the most likely candidate for the assistant manager post.

Parting ways, page 35



Redknapp: promotion

## Second-hand Rover. Needs some restoration.



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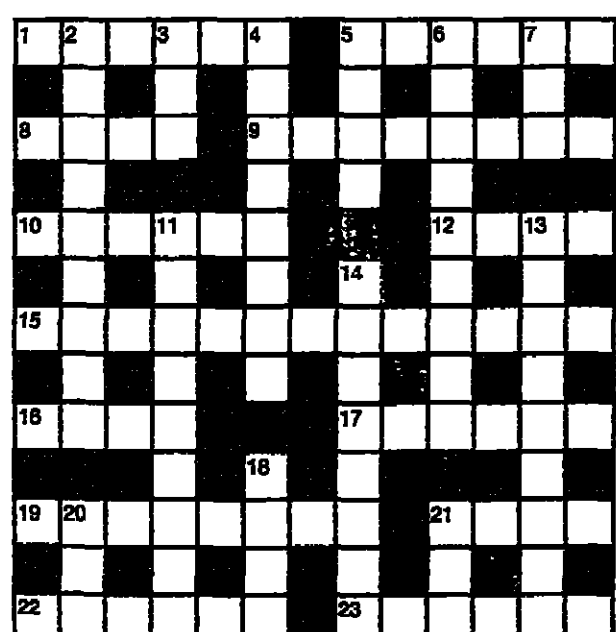
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## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 238

## ACROSS

- 1 Frame of mind (6)
- 5 Execute on Tower Green (6)
- 8 Hold back (4)
- 9 Plant stick: very thin person (8)
- 10 Force of collision (6)
- 12 Put behind bars (4)
- 15 Collection of relevant papers (13)
- 16 Supply (with) (4)
- 17 Gauguin's island (6)
- 19 Shake threateningly (8)
- 21 Crosswise yarn: web (4)
- 22 Area of influence (6)
- 23 Being nosy (6)

## DOWN

- 2 Impromptu (9)
- 3 Reward (3)
- 4 Refuted (8)
- 5 Drop of moisture (4)
- 6 Playground game on chalked squares (9)
- 7 Every (3)
- 11 Copiousness (9)
- 13 Abandoned settlement (5,4)
- 14 Close (wound): incriminate (6,2)
- 18 Trick, stratagem (4)
- 20 Knock: type of music (3)
- 21 Route (3)

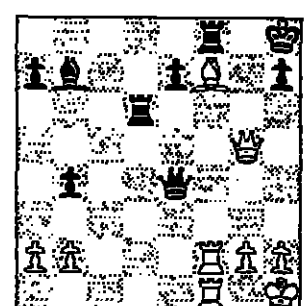
## SOLUTION TO NO 237

- ACROSS: 1 Wound 7 Also-ran 8 Theorem 9 Echelon  
11 Hussar 13 Launch pad 15 First-born 19 Divers  
21 Sky-high 23 Unravel 24 Enamoured 25 Dusty
- DOWN: 1 Witch 2 Unease 3 Dorsal 4 Dame 5 Joseph  
6 Samovar 10 Canard 12 Rag-bag 14 Licking 16 Scheme  
17 Nimrod 18 Jeeves 20 Silly 22 Hurt

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Euwe - Sir George Thomas, Hastings 1934. Black seems to have promising threats against the g2-square and White's weak back rank. However, it is White to play and he managed to get in first. What did he play?



Solution, page 36  
Raymond Keene, page 6

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

## TENNY

- a. A ten-pound coin
- b. Deuce at real tennis
- c. Orange-brown

## TARAND

- a. The reinder
- b. A reverse lontine
- c. Fifty South African cents

## PHORMIUM

- a. A lighthouse
  - b. Rhetorical apology
  - c. New Zealand flax
- QUM  
a. Question expecting answer  
Maybe  
b. A masticatory  
c. A rug

Answers on page 36

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